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GDP growth estimated at 7.7% in 2025-26: govt.

Provisional estimates are slightly higher than the 7.6% growth projected in February; growth in Q4 stands at 7.8%; PM Modi says the figures show the success of reforms and the hard work of Indians

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The growth in India's gross domestic product (GDP) has been estimated at 7.7% in 2025-26, according to data released by the government on Friday, compared with 7.1% in the previous financial year of 2024-25. GDP growth in the fourth quarter of 2025-26 stood at 7.8%.

According to the data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the provisional estimates of GDP growth in 2025-26 are slightly higher than the 7.6% growth estimated in February 2026.

The data comes at a time when Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra, while announcing the Monetary Policy Committee's decisions, said that GDP growth for 2026-27 was expected to slow to 6.6%.

In the press conference on the GDP data, Chief Economic Advisor V. Anantha Nageswaran said that the RBI's assessment on growth and inflation "seems fair estimates" and that he didn't see the need to second-guess them.

"GDP growth rate of 7.7% in FY 2025-26 and 7.8% in Q4 of FY 2025-26 reflect the inherent strength of our economy, the success of reforms and the hard work of 140 crore Indians," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on X following the data release. "We shall leave no stone unturned to further 'Ease of Living,' 'Ease of Doing Business' and increase opportunities for our youth."

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, on X, emphasised that manufacturing, trade, repair, hotels, transport, communication & services related to broadcasting, storage and financial, real estate and professional services sectors hit double-digit growth at both constant and current prices in 2025-26.

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NO LTCG TAX ON FIIS
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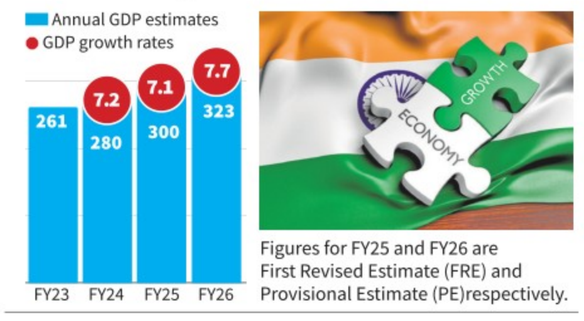
Stronger estimate

India's GDP is estimated to grow by 7.7% in 2025-26, slightly faster than the 7.6% estimated in February 2026. In the chart below, the bars show annual GDP estimates **(in ₹ lakh crore)** and the circles indicate growth rates at constant prices **(in %).**



Figures for FY25 and FY26 are First Revised Estimate (FRE) and Provisional Estimate (PE)respectively.

Bengaluru is 'the biggest talent pool in Asia', says Shivakumar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Speaking at the inauguration of the sixth edition of The Hindu Huddle at the Taj West End in Bengaluru on Friday, Karnataka Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar described Bengaluru as "the biggest talent pool in Asia", highlighting its vast reserve of IT professionals, engineers, nurses and other skilled workers who contribute to economies across the world.

The Chief Minister said that Bengaluru remains one of the safest cities to live and work in.

This edition of The Hindu Huddle, themed 'A World in Transition', was curated by *The Hindu's* Opinion Editor, Narayan Lakshman, and brought together heads of government, diplomats, policymakers, thought leaders, experts, and members of the arts and entertainment industry to discuss major geopolitical, economic, technological, and social changes shaping the world today.

The distinguished lineup of speakers included Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, former Union Minister and Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh, Chinese Ambassador Xu Feihong, European Union Ambassador Hervé Delphin, former Foreign Secretary and former Indian Ambassador to U.S. and China Nirupama Rao, and Australian High Commissioner Philip Green.

Praising *The Hindu* for its commitment to independent journalism, Mr. Shivakumar said, "You write history, we believe in making history."

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Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar with *The Hindu*'s Opinion Editor Narayan Lakshman at the inauguration of The Hindu Huddle in Bengaluru on Friday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Restoring habitat

Pelicans gather at Amber Cheruvu in Hyderabad on Friday, as HYDRAA (Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency) steps up lake restoration efforts. It removed sludge and installed fencing to curb pollution and protect the water body's biodiversity. NAGARA GOPAL

NEARBY

Raising height threshold of buildings mooted

BENGALURU
The State government has proposed raising the height threshold for high-rise buildings in Bengaluru from 15 metres to 21 metres. » PAGE 2

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PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE 8

Portfolio troubles: Ramalinga Reddy resigns, Muniyappa sulks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day after portfolios were allocated to Cabinet Ministers, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar faced trouble from senior colleagues, as one resigned and another publicly expressed unhappiness over allocation. Amid the discontent, the Chief Minister clarified that the decision on allocation was taken by the Congress high command and it cannot be set aside.

While miffed at not given Bengaluru Development portfolio, Ramalinga Reddy sent his resignation letter to the Chief Minister, another senior Minister K.H. Muniyappa said unless a portfolio that befits his seniority is given, he would not take charge of the Food and Civil Supplies Department allocated to him.

However, the Congress high command is learnt to have taken a strong stand against such public postures by disgruntled Ministers and instructed not to accommodate their demands.

Mr. Reddy, who signed his resignation letter in the media, also refused to go personally to hand over the resignation letter. He said the letter would be sent through an official. However, he clarified that he will remain in the Congress as a legislator.

Meanwhile, Mr. Muniyappa, fired a salvo by stating seniors should be allocated portfolios that are "useful for society".

He is learnt eyeing Social Welfare Department portfolio that is yet to allocated.

The implementation of internal reservation issues seems to be weighing on his mind, sources said.

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While Ramalinga Reddy (left) is miffed at not being given the Bengaluru Development portfolio, Muniyappa said unless a portfolio that befits his seniority is given, he will not take charge.

GETTY IMAGES

Luis Enrique joins the GOATs, but PSG success isn't above reproach

The 56-year-old is now a part of an elite group of managers with three or more European Cup titles. And he did it with silky, selfless, attacking football. But while there is no doubt about Enrique's quality or his influence on the modern game, the question of his legacy – specifically the Paris chapter, amid criticism of 'sportswashing' – is less straightforward

Associated Press
Agence France-Presse
Sports Bureau

After presiding over PSG's successful Champions League title defence, Luis Enrique put his name up in lights in the hall of fame for football's greatest-ever managers.

Having previously guided Barcelona to Champions League glory in 2014-15, the Spaniard secured his third European Cup triumph as a coach. He joined an elite group of managers with three or more European Cup titles, alongside Carlo Ancelotti, who won a record five, and Bob Paisley, Zinedine Zidane and Pep Guardiola, who have each lifted the trophy three times.

Getting one over Guardiola

By going back to back, Enrique achieved what even his good friend Guardiola – who has a case for being considered the greatest ever – could not. And he did it in some style, with his PSG team being feted for its silky interplay and bewildering movement.

Enrique's insistence on high-intensity, high-pressure football with electrifying forwards who dribble through defences has created a rare blend – arguably even improving on Guardiola's iconic Barcelona side which won the Champions League twice. He has expanded on the possession-based ideas of Spain's best teams, adding risk-taking and transitional threat.

Enrique's PSG plays structured positional football, typically a 3-1-6 in possession. But there is fluidity within this formation – it's not the same players in the same positions at all times. The side can pull apart most defences with its clever positional interchanges.

While PSG couldn't break Arsenal down in the final, which went to penalties, it still created several headaches for the English champion, which Enrique said was the best team in the world out of possession. Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said after the game that his plan wasn't to have just 25% of the ball, but PSG's dominance had precipitated the situation.

> I arrived at the club thinking, 'My objective is to make history,' and we have indeed made history
> **LUIS ENRIQUE**

"It's not a plan to play in certain scenarios when you don't have the ball but they force you to do that," Arteta, who admitted to being inspired by Enrique and PSG, said. "What they are able to do with the ball, individual actions, I haven't seen it [before]. And so even more praise to them."

In many ways Enrique is the defining figure of this PSG project, after the megastars, Lionel Messi, Neymar, and Kylian Mbappe, departed. As Arteta said, "His fingerprints are all over this team." Enrique arrived in Paris in 2023 promising a cultural shift rather than instant glamour. The Spaniard wanted a team in which collective sacrifice outweighed individual status, where the biggest names defended, pressed and suffered together. It's fair to say he has succeeded.

After Mbappe left in 2024, Lucho, as he is nicknamed, said his team would become even stronger. "Having a player who moved wherever he wanted meant there were parts of the game I couldn't control... next year, I'll control everything. Everything," he said. And he did.

The club still invested heavily in players, but players tailored to their manager's plans, willing to run endlessly for the collective, and keep egos in check. "I arrived at the club thinking, 'My objective is to make history,' and we have indeed made history," Enrique said. "We want to keep writing the story because we believe there's still more there for us to achieve."

Enrique has won 12 trophies, including three Ligue 1 titles, during his time at PSG. It is clear, from inside and outside, the effect the Asturian has had on a club built in his image, capable of creating a modern football dynasty. But while there is no doubt about Enrique's quality, the question of his legacy, specifically the PSG chapter, is less straightforward.

The French team, built with Qatari riches, continues to face questions about 'sportswashing', which global campaigning network Greenpeace defines as "the act of sponsoring a sports team or event in order to distract from bad practices elsewhere. This tactic is often used by companies and governments with poor environmental or human rights records, exploiting people's love of sports to 'wash' their image clean".

Qatar Sports Investments acquired a controlling stake in PSG in 2011, just under a year after Qatar was named host for the 2022 World Cup. Critics saw both moves as a means to "mute criticism of an autocratic regime", to take attention away from its "appalling treatment of migrant workers", "suppression of human rights", and "imprisonment of whistleblower Abdullah Ibhais".

Critics also cite the financial imbalance enjoyed by state-owned teams such as PSG, Manchester City and Newcastle, arguing that it undermines fair competition. They point to the influence of PSG president Nasser al-Khelaifi, the chairman of both European Football Clubs (EFC) and broadcasting company beIN, on the administration of European club football. This, they say, is the "the deeper effect of state money".

The questions and criticism have reduced with PSG's success on the biggest stage – critics contend that this is precisely the point of 'sportswashing'.

Enrique's tenure at PSG – much like Guardiola's at City, which was marked by incredible trophy success but marred by 115 alleged breaches of the Premier League's financial regulations – will be accompanied by a knotty question: Can legacy be separated from the context of the circumstances in which it is built?

Fans of Enrique will hope that the answer doesn't define him entirely. The 56-year-old has enriched the game with his progressive ideas of play, extending the limits of modern tactical thinking. While mastering his craft, he has endured a great personal tragedy and borne the loss of his young daughter with resilience and grace. Some will also highlight the fact that other managers have enjoyed Enrique's resources at PSG but failed to produce the results he has.

Target three-peat

For his part, Enrique isn't overly concerned about his legacy, at least publicly. After the final, he said he was "not interested" in whether he was becoming a legend or not. His next target is the Champions League three-peat. "The first one was incredible, but more than anything we had that desire to get the second," he told broadcaster *M6*. "I love this club so much, and it's not over! We've got the second, we'll keep working and go get the third."

Record 15-time winner Real Madrid won the Champions League three times (2016-2018). Before that, the last teams to complete a hat-trick were Bayern Munich and Ajax in the 1970s. Real also won it five years running, back at the competition's inception. "We can talk about the back-to-back-to-back," said Enrique. "We can talk about these types of objectives, our club is worthy of it, as are our supporters. We do need new players to refresh certain positions, but we've been champions of Europe for two years... piano piano [slowly, slowly]."

> His fingerprints are all over this team. What they are able to do with the ball, individual actions, I haven't seen it [before]
> **MIKEL ARTETA**
> Arsenal manager

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Jannik Sinner	24	14,750	19
2	Carlos Alcaraz	23	11,960	18
3	Alexander Zverev	29	5,705	21
4	Novak Djokovic	39	4,460	16
5	Ben Shelton	23	4,070	23
6	Felix Auger-Aliassime	25	4,050	24
7	Alex de Minaur	27	3,855	23
8	Daniil Medvedev	30	3,760	24
9	Taylor Fritz	28	3,720	23
10	Alexander Bublik	28	3,320	25
11	Lorenzo Musetti	24	3,115	23
12	Jiri Lehecka	24	2,665	21
13	Andrey Rublev	28	2,460	23
14	Flavio Cobolli	24	2,340	27
15	Karen Khachanov	30	2,320	24

Top Indians ▶

Sumit Nagal
Rank 282 ▼ 7 spots

Manas Dhamne
Rank 394 ▼ 3 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Aryna Sabalenka	28	9,960	19
2	Elena Rybakina	26	8,313	22
3	Iga Swiatek	24	7,273	19
4	Coco Gauff	22	6,749	19
5	Jessica Pegula	32	6,286	20
6	Amanda Anisimova	24	5,958	17
7	Elina Svitolina	31	4,315	15
8	Mirra Andreeva	19	4,181	21
9	Victoria Mboko	19	3,710	21
10	Karolina Muchova	29	3,318	19
11	Belinda Bencic	29	3,145	19
12	Linda Noskova	21	3,054	22
13	Jasmine Paolini	30	2,787	20
14	Ekaterina Alexandrova	31	2,679	27
15	Marta Kostyuk	23	2,387	19

Top Indians ▶

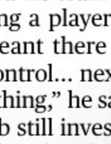
Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 360 ▼ 2 spots

Vaishnavi Adkar
Rank 378 ▼ 3 spots

F1 Drivers' standings

#	Driver	Team	Points	Wins
1	A.K. Antonelli	Mercedes	131	4
2	G. Russell	Mercedes	88	1
3	C. Leclerc	Ferrari	75	0
4	L. Hamilton	Ferrari	72	0
5	L. Norris	McLaren	58	0
6	O. Piastri	McLaren	48	0
7	M. Verstappen	Red Bull	43	0
8	P. Gasly	Alpine	20	0
9	O. Bearman	Haas	18	0
10	L. Lawson	RB	16	0
11	F. Colapinto	Alpine	15	0
12	I. Hadjar	Red Bull	14	0
13	C. Sainz	Williams	6	0
14	A. Lindblad	RB	5	0
15	G. Bortoleto	Audi	2	0
16	E. Ocon	Haas	1	0
17	A. Albon	Williams	1	0
18	N. Hulkenberg	Audi	0	0
19	V. Bottas	Cadillac	0	0
20	S. Perez	Cadillac	0	0
21	L. Stroll	Aston Martin	0	0
22	F. Alonso	Aston Martin	0	0

A.K. Antonelli



G. Russell

F1 Constructors' standings

Pos	Team	Points	Wins
1	Mercedes	219	5
2	Ferrari	147	0
3	McLaren	106	0
4	Red Bull	57	0
5	Alpine	35	0
6	RB	21	0
7	Haas	19	0
8	Williams	7	0
9	Audi	2	0
10	Cadillac	0	0
11	Aston Martin	0	0

Badminton Men's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	Shi Yu Qi	1,08,905	12
2	Anders Antonsen	95,455	17
3	Kunlavut Vitidsarn	93,565	16
4	Christo Popov	84,682	20
5	Jonatan Christie	83,631	18
6	Chou Tien Chen	82,080	27
7	Li Shi Feng	74,783	16
8	Alex Lanier	74,525	17
9	Lin Chun-Yi	69,414	18
10	Lakshya Sen	69,373	23
11	Kodai Naraoka	68,020	22
12	Alwi Farhan	66,209	20
13	Loh Kean Yew	65,700	18
14	Victor Lai	64,915	20
15	Weng Hong Yang	59,341	17

Top Indians ▶

Lakshya Sen
Rank 10

Ayush Shetty
Rank 20

Badminton Women's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	An Se Young	1,17,787	17
2	Wang Zhi Yi	1,07,689	16
3	Akane Yamaguchi	97,826	17
4	Chen Yu Fei	86,951	16
5	Han Yue	84,638	15
6	Putri Kusuma Wardani	75,223	19
7	Ratchanok Intanon	73,626	20
8	Pornpawee Chochuwong	64,977	15
9	Tomoka Miyazaki	62,086	22
10	P.V. Sindhu	59,781	13
11	Michelle Li	56,847	21
12	Nozomi Okuhara	56,490	19
13	Chiu Pin-Chian	54,748	25
14	Mia Blichfeldt	53,503	15
15	Lin Hsiang Ti	52,029	24

Top Indians ▶

P.V. Sindhu
Rank 10

Unnati Hooda
Rank 23

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Joe Root	880	932
2	Harry Brook	857	898
3	Travis Head	853	884
4	Steve Smith	831	947
5	Kane Williamson	807	919
6	Kamindu Mendis	781	784
7	Temba Bavuma	775	806
8	Yashasvi Jaiswal	750	858
9	Rachin Ravindra	737	737
10	Shubman Gill	730	807

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jasprit Bumrah	879	908
2	Mitchell Starc	838	852
3	Pat Cummins	832	914
4	Matt Henry	828	853
5	Marco Jansen	825	825
6	Scott Boland	820	820
7	Noman Ali	817	853
8	Kagiso Rabada	807	902
9	Josh Hazlewood	775	864
10	Nathan Lyon	753	812

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Daryl Mitchell	815	840
2	Virat Kohli	791	908
3	Ibrahim Zadran	756	756
4	Rohit Sharma	748	879
5	Shubman Gill	716	841
6	Babar Azam	687	894
7	Shai Hope	679	782
7	Harry Tector	679	730
9	K.L. Rahul	664	676
10	Charith Asalanka	656	705

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	705	775
2	Jofra Archer	649	682
3	Keshav Maharaj	645	737
4	Abrar Ahmed	633	633
5	Adil Rashid	629	671
6	Maheesh Theekshana	624	680
6	Kuldeep Yadav	624	757
8	Mehidy Hasan	621	722
9	Josh Hazlewood	614	725
10	Adam Zampa	600	696

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Abhishek Sharma	875	931
2	Ishan Kishan	871	871
3	Sahibzada Farhan	848	848
4	Phil Salt	792	881
5	Pathum Nissanka	766	796
6	Tilak Varma	742	845
7	Suryakumar Yadav	722	912
8	Jos Buttler	716	794
9	Dewald Brevis	702	738
10	Brian Bennett	701	708

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	753	828
2	Varun Chakaravarthy	740	818
3	Abrar Ahmed	736	757
4	Adil Rashid	721	747
5	Jasprit Bumrah	702	783
6	Adam Zampa	682	746
7	Corbin Bosch	669	745
8	Matthew Forde	667	679
9	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	663	757
10	Nathan Ellis	661	678

Height threshold of high-rises may go up

It has been proposed to increase height from 15 to 20 metres; 'the revision appears to signal the govt.'s intent to encourage greater densification'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has proposed raising the height threshold for high-rise buildings in Bengaluru from 15 metres to 21 metres, a move that will change how buildings are classified under the city's planning regulations. The proposal forms part of a wider set of amendments to the zoning regulations of the Revised Master Plan-2015.

Further, the amendments propose permitting high-rise buildings on roads having a minimum width of 12 metres and above and the floor height of buildings to 4.5 metres, up from the earlier limit of 3.5 metres.

The proposal forms part of a wider set of amendments to the zoning regulations of the Revised Master Plan-2015. K. MURALI KUMAR

To accommodate this change, the Urban Development Department (UDD) has also increased the height threshold for high-rise buildings to 21 metres from 15 metres in the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) area, sources said.

K.R. Ramesh, a property consultant and a developer, explained that builders and individual property owners can now construct floors with greater heights without the fear of exceeding high-rise limits. "Higher floors mean much more space for ventilation and also work well in preventing heat buildup inside houses," he said.

V. Ravichandar, a member of the Brand Bengaluru Committee, said the proposed revision appears to signal the government's intent to encourage "greater densification" in Bengaluru, particularly along mass transit corridors such as the metro, where higher population density can improve public transport usage and viability.

"If the limit for the definition of a high-rise goes higher, it allows more people to construct taller buildings without falling under the current high-rise category," he said, adding that the move could facilitate denser development within the city. Mr. Ravichandar pointed out that Bengaluru's growth has traditionally been marked by urban sprawl, with development spread across a vast area through layouts and relatively low-rise structures, he said, arguing that encouraging denser development could help the city make better use of land and infrastructure.

> Builders and individual property owners can now construct floors with greater heights without the fear of exceeding high-rise limits
>
> **K.R. RAMESH**
> Property consultant and developer

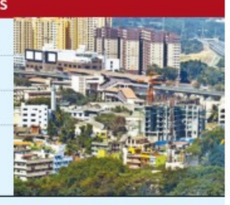
He said the benefits would be particularly visible along the metro corridors.

"These are high-density corridors that can carry large numbers of people. If more people live along these corridors, the metro becomes more effective and operationally viable," he said. Higher residential density around stations would also mean more people can walk to public transport instead of depending on private vehicles. Another expert, however, argued that reducing the number of buildings classified as high-rises could weaken safety oversight as high-rise buildings are subject to more stringent norms relating to fire safety, emergency evacuation and structural requirements.

Notably, the Karnataka Fire Force (Amendment) Act, 2023, already defines a "high-rise" building as one measuring 21 metres or more in height and mandates a No Objection Certification from the Fire and Emergency Services Department for such structures.

Ramps required for access to and from parking floors or basements

Parking slots	Minimum width of ramp (in metres)	Minimum number of ramps
Up to 50	3.5 m	1
Up to 350	3.5 m or 6 m	2 or 1
Up to 700	3.5 m or 6 m	4 or 2
Above 700	3.5 m or 6 m	6 or 3



Key Changes

- Permissible floor height of a building increased to 4.5 metres from 3.5 metres
- Height threshold for high-rise buildings increased to 21 metres from 15 metres
- Balconies limited to one-third of the length of the building
- Duct and shaft areas constituting less than 10% of the built-up area will not be counted towards FAR
- Utility infrastructure permitted within setback areas

Proposal to relax Floor Area Ratio calculation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The draft of the amendments to zonal regulations of Revised Master Plan-2015 proposes that in plots measuring up to 500 sq m, the area occupied by ventilation ducts, garbage shafts, service shafts, voids, ducts, cut-outs, and open-to-sky areas exceeding 10% of the built-up area would be considered for Floor Area Ratio (FAR) computation.

Earlier, these structures were fully included in the FAR computation. The amendments would therefore allow the construction of more dwelling units, provided the planning is done properly.

To ensure wider roads and structured drainage networks, the notification also proposes granting FAR on the entire site area, including land required for widening existing roads and roads proposed in the Revised Master Plan-2015, provided the applicant relinquishes such land to the local authority free of cost.

The draft also proposes the inclusion of a new clause.

Transformers, DG/HSD yards, waste management areas, oxygen or gas plants, watchmen's cubicles of up to 4 sq m at entry or exit points, and fire control rooms measuring up to 4X m may be permitted within setback areas. However, this is subject to the condition that they do not obstruct fire driveways, access, natural light, or ventilation. The proposal also mandates ventilation for security and fire control rooms.

The notification further states that underground sumps, sewage treatment plants located only in basement floors or below ground level, and swimming pools may also be permitted within setback areas after reserving space equivalent to the required setback for the basement.

The draft provides revised setback requirements for basements and introduces provisions for mechanised parking. In plots measuring up to 6,000 sq m, vehicle parking in basements or upper floors, including terrace areas, may be permitted through lift-based, computerised, mechanised, or hydraulic systems without the requirement of a ramp, if opted for voluntarily by the owner.

Govt. proposes amendments to zonal regulations of RMP for GBA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a move that could help small builders thrive in Bengaluru while also creating affordable housing for middle-class families, the Karnataka government has proposed amendments to the zonal regulations of the Revised Master Plan (RMP) 2015 for the Greater Bengaluru Area.

The draft notification issued by the Urban Development Department (UDD) on Thursday introduces new provisions governing family sub-division of plots, amalgamation of A-Khata properties, and bifurcation procedures.

The proposed move is expected to make the State government's B-to-A Khata conversion scheme more attractive, while contributing to densification of the city.

Under one of the proposed amendments, two or more adjoining building sites with the A-Khata will be eligible for amalgamation, provided the resulting site is contiguous, upon payment of a nominal fee to the corporation.

This means that two separate sites can be amalgamated into one and become eligible for a single plot approval for construction, effectively enabling the development of larger apartment complexes.

K.R. Ramesh, property consultant and developer, said the move gives small builders an opportunity to thrive in the city while also providing affordable housing.

"Once implemented, builders will have greater space availability, leading to denser construction, which will also force a revision and correction of rates. The impact will be that costs become more affordable for the middle class," he said, welcoming the move.

> **The proposed move is expected to make the State government's B-to-A Khata conversion scheme more attractive**

Interestingly, the conversion scheme, which has seen dismal progress so far, is also likely to receive a boost as private developers look for sites on the city's fringes, and will be willing to pay more. This would create a win-win situation for both site holders and developers.

The proposal also permits amalgamation where a stormwater drain, other than a primary drain, runs between or within the sites, provided the resulting amalgamated property remains contiguous and all applicable buffer requirements and conditions relating to the drain are complied with.

In such cases, the construction of cross-drainage works connecting different portions of the amalgamated property will be permitted. Following amalgamation, a single property identification number will be assigned to the combined site.

Bifurcation amendment

The other amendment seeks to add a new clause under sub-division regulations relating to the family sub-division of plots having A-Khata (e-khata).

As per the proposal, a vacant plot, or a plot with a building of up to 2,000 sq m, will be eligible for family sub-division, provided each subdivided plot has a minimum area of 50 sq m. Each subdivided plot must have road access, and a minimum frontage of six metres.

A registered town planner or an architect, or an engineer will be required to prepare the family partition plan in accordance with the regulations.

The sub-division will be permitted upon payment of a family sub-division charge of ₹1,000, or such amount as may be notified by the government from time to time.

However, where at least one of the joint owners seeking sub-division is not a family member of the khatedar, or where an A-Khata has been issued without approval under Section 17 of the Act, sub-division charges will be levied at 5% of the guidance value of the site or plot proposed for sub-division.

The sub-division of the site will be approved, and a subdivided A-Khata (e-Khata) will be issued by the city corporation.

The sub-division of plots exceeding 2,000 sq m was allowed earlier as well.

Researchers develop imaging platform for early detection of cancer, neurological disorders

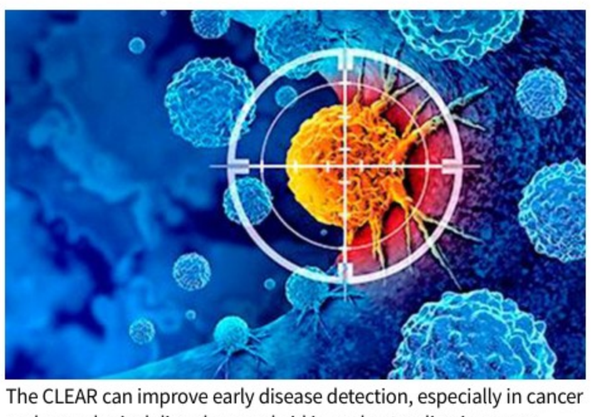
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Researchers at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) have developed an imaging platform which can transform protein imaging and facilitate detection of cancer and neurobiological diseases.

The imaging platform, Cleavable Light-Erased Antibody Reporter (CLEAR), can help visualisation of an unprecedented number of proteins within the same biological sample using just a single fluorescent marker.

According to the Department of Science and Technology, proteins are the primary orchestrators of biological function and remain the principal targets for therapeutic intervention, as well as key markers for disease diagnosis.

"A comprehensive proteomic map of a tissue sample - capturing the identity and precise spatial organisation of every protein within its native context - could help pathologists in diagnosing cancers or understanding complex neurological disorders. However, mapping a large number of proteins within their native spatial context has remained a major challenge," the department said.



The CLEAR can improve early disease detection, especially in cancer and neurological disorders, and aid in understanding immune responses. GETTY IMAGES

In order to overcome this challenge, the CLEAR can enable scientists to visualise a large number of proteins within the same biological sample using a single fluorophore.

While a team led by Sarit S. Agasti designed and synthesised the CLEAR probes, developed the imaging workflow and validated the platform across different biological systems, collaborative efforts with researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) helped demonstrate the platform in complex biological settings, particularly in immune cell systems. "Unlike existing multiplexing techniques, the CLEAR combines high multiplexing capability with speed, high spatial resolution, and compatibility with delicate biological samples, including live cells. This approach fundamentally redefines multiplexed imaging by enabling virtually unlimited protein visualisation without requiring multiple fluorophores," the department said.

The CLEAR can improve early disease detection, especially in cancer and neurological disorders, and aid in understanding immune responses.

Green warriors

As part of World Environment Day celebrations, students planted saplings during an initiative led by the residents of Sadashivanagar near Sankey Tank in Bengaluru on Friday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Leopard attacks five people in Hassan, captured

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Forest Department officials captured a leopard on Friday after it attacked five people across two villages in Holenarasipura taluk of Hassan district.

The leopard attacked four persons at Ankavalli around 8 a.m. Jayamma, Nagaraju, Naveen and Jayamma were injured in the incident. The same leopard subsequently entered the cattle-shed of Suresh at Boovanahalli village and attacked his wife, Vasantha. The successive incidents prompted the department to launch a capture operation.

Khader conducts surprise inspection at govt. hospital

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Cracking the whip on his first day in office, Karnataka's new Health Minister U.T. Khader conducted a surprise inspection of a government hospital in the early hours of Friday, and later announced an urgent recruitment drive for doctors and a review of complaints relating to private hospitals and ambulance services.

Soon after portfolios were announced on Thursday night, Mr. Khader paid an unannounced visit to Jayanagar General Hospital in Bengaluru on Friday around 1 a.m. to assess healthcare delivery at the ground level.

Concern

The Minister expressed concern after noticing a pregnant woman seated on the floor and took note of the absence of some doctors assigned night duty.

The doctors found absent would be asked to explain their absence and warned against future negligence, he said, pointing out that disciplinary action would follow repeated violations. "Our objective is to ensure healthcare services reach more people. We want to understand the difficulties faced by doctors, staff and patients, and work towards practical solutions," Mr. Khader told *The Hindu*.

GETTY IMAGES

Batters just keep getting better and better; but I think we are also bowling quicker

In this conversation, England fast-bowler Issy Wong previews the upcoming T20 World Cup, reminisces about her time with the Mumbai Indians, and reveals who the toughest opponents she has faced are. The 24-year-old also holds forth on the impact of The Hundred and describes what it was like to watch the 2017 World Cup final from the stands at Lord's

> [In The Hundred] you have got both young girls and young boys really engaging with both the men's and the women's game and being entertained by both. It is no longer just women's cricket for women to watch

> Any team is only one brilliant individual performance away from beating anyone else. That is why people love the game. That is why people watch cricket

INTERVIEW

Issy Wong

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Issy Wong is one of the quickest bowlers in the women's game. After being out of the England team for almost a year, she returned to international cricket recently, and is now looking forward to the upcoming T20 World Cup at home. She took the Women's Premier League's first-ever hattrick, in the inaugural edition in 2023, in which she played a key role in Mumbai Indians' triumph.

Excerpts from Wong's interview over the phone with *The Hindu*:

Who do you think could be the strongest contenders at the T20 World Cup that starts next week in England?

We just had a really competitive series against New Zealand and they are the reigning world champions. We obviously know that the talent of Australia, India and South Africa is enormous.

But the brilliant thing about cricket is that it is an individual team sport, isn't it? So, you know, any team is only one brilliant individual performance away from beating anyone else. That is why people love the game. That is why people watch cricket. It is genuinely a sport where anything can happen.

You did very well in the inaugural edition of the WPL, in which you helped Mumbai Indians win the title.

I love playing out there in India. As a place to tour and as a place to play sort of franchise cricket, it is right up there. I love the passion for the game that you always feel there is in India.

It is super exciting to know what you are doing has that entertainment factor. That is why we do it, isn't it? In India, that first year of the WPL really gave me that platform to go out and enjoy my cricket and try and hope that people enjoy that too. The one thing that stands out for me personally is the hattrick [against UP Warriorz]. That was also the sort of moment where we thought, 'We are almost in the final here'. That will go down as one of the best moments in my career. I had a good group of people that I just enjoyed being with and sharing the field with.

> The Indian team is stacked full of brilliant batters and they just keep coming as well, don't they? You get one of them out and then out walks Harmanpreet

How was it being part of the champion side?

It was cool. It was my first experience of being part of a championship-winning side. And there was so much to learn off all the people involved. I got to spend a lot of time with Nat [Sciver-Brunt]. You know her skillset. Her experience and being from an English background as well, it was cool to watch her up close.

There were of course other overseas players, Hayley Matthews, Amelia Kerr, and the Indian superstars as well, like Harmanpreet Kaur, Yastika Bhatia. Building relationships with those players, learning a bit from them. How they see the game is sometimes quite different to us. I found that fascinating. We had a good run as well, which always helps. I guess you always have more fun when you are winning.

And your coach at MI was Charlotte Edwards, whom you have now reunited with in the England team.

She is all right, isn't she? It was cool to build that relationship with Lottie. She was the perfect sort of coach, especially in that first year, given the last-minute nature of it. She just kind of helped us ride that wave as a playing group. There can be a lot of noise around that competition and a lot of distractions away from what we do on the pitch.

The toughest batters you have bowled to?

Good question. I think there are so many good batters and it feels like the batters just keep getting better and better. As bowlers, it's hard for us to keep up with them; maybe balls are going farther. But I think we are also bowling quicker or turning it more.

We have just played against Sophie Devine, and she has played, I think, one of the great T20 innings at Canterbury. Last year, Matthews got a hundred at Canterbury as well. Those two recently have really tested our bowling attacks and they are pretty tricky.

And also, the Indian team is stacked full of brilliant batters and they just keep coming as well, don't they? You get one of them out and then out walks Harmanpreet. Every batter has her own strengths and weaknesses. And it's exciting to be able to test yourself against them.

Who are the cricketers that you admired growing up?

Being English, there were obviously Anya Shrubsole, Katherine Sciver-Brunt. You can't really get two better pace-bowling role models than them. To see them running in, representing England, their passion and extraordinarily high skill level...It was really inspiring to watch as a kid. From other countries, you look at people like Shabnim Ismail, Jhulan Goswami, and seeing those bowlers just makes you passionate about bowling fast.

How is The Hundred helping women's cricket in England?

We have got players like Tilly Corteen-Coleman that have had success in The Hundred. I think about my time at MI and players like Saika Ishaque and (S.) Sajana that ended up representing their country and that happened quite quickly.

It has been really cool to see the young players coming through and embracing that platform that The Hundred gives them. Also, you look in the stands, you find lots of young girls, but also young boys coming to watch women's cricket.

You have got both young girls and young boys really engaging with both the men's and the women's game and being entertained by both. We have seen it as well with women's football in this country, everybody getting behind it. It is no longer just women's cricket for women to watch. I think The Hundred talks a lot about equal exposure. And for us as players, it is really nice to promote that because we are playing for the same clubs, playing on the same days. It is such a fun tournament to be part of.

What are your memories of watching the 2017 World Cup final at Lord's and how did it impact you as a young aspiring cricketer?

It has had a massive impact. There was a good core of us, probably younger players in the side now, that were in the stands at Lord's and it just felt like a brilliant day watching women's cricket. The final couldn't have been much more dramatic than it was. And I think as a spectator, that was brilliant. And it really captured the hearts of loads of young, especially girls in England, you know. Nine years have gone by now. When you sit there at Lord's watching our players win a World Cup for England on home soil, there is nothing more inspiring than that, nothing that makes you want to follow in their footsteps more.

Have you had a look at this boy called Vaibhav Sooryavanshi?

Yeah, a little bit. He whacks it, doesn't he?

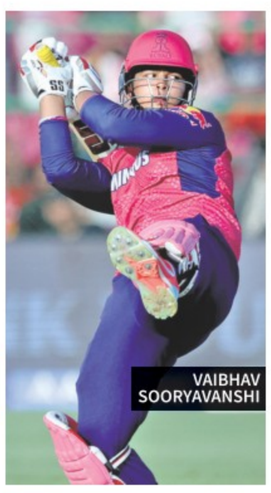
(This interview was facilitated by Sony Sports Network, which is broadcasting the England-India women's bilateral series)

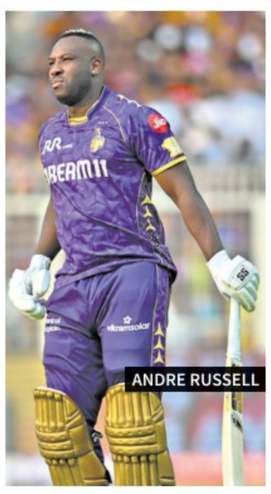
GAME THEORY

Maximum overdrive: the most frequent six-hitters in IPL history

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi broke Chris Gayle's record for the most sixes in an IPL edition, finishing with 72 this season and bettering the West Indian's mark of 59 set in 2012. The 15-year-old has hit a six every 4.68 balls in his young IPL career. How does that stack up against the most frequent six-hitters of all time in the tournament's history? Let's take a look:

Player	Balls faced	Sixes hit	Balls per six
Vaibhav Sooryavanshi	449	96	4.68
Andre Russell	1,522	223	6.83
Tim David	650	83	7.83
Nicholas Pooran	1,540	186	8.28
Rajat Patidar	980	110	8.91
Liam Livingstone	687	76	9.04
Sunil Narine	1,101	120	9.18
Chris Gayle	3,333	357	9.34
Abhishek Sharma	1,389	144	9.65
Kieron Pollard	2,316	223	10.39
Heinrich Klaasen	1,262	120	10.52
Shivam Dube	1,464	137	10.69
Shimron Hetmyer	1,045	96	10.89
Mitchell Marsh	1,249	111	11.25
Glenn Maxwell	1,817	161	11.29
Travis Head	915	78	11.73
Riyan Parag	1,300	108	12.04
Prabhsimran Singh	1,161	94	12.35
Marcus Stoinis	1,520	117	12.99
Hardik Pandya	2,020	155	13.03


VAIBHAV SOORYAVANSHI


ANDRE RUSSELL

TIM DAVID

NICHOLAS POORAN

RAJAT PATIDAR

SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO.COM | MINIMUM 75 SIXES

PICTURE THIS

GETTY IMAGES

Nimble giants

Sumo is the oldest Japanese martial art, dating back more than 1500 years.

The first sumo matches, combining crude boxing and wrestling techniques, were part of a prayer ritual dedicated to the gods for a good harvest season. Today's matches continue to involve several rituals. They are fought on a dohyo — a raised and sanctified circle, with a roof similar to a Shinto shrine.

The bout itself may last only a few seconds, and the rules are simple enough: the first to step out of the ring, or touch the floor with anything except the soles of the feet, loses.

Unlike other forms of wrestling, sumo has no weight categories, and competitors often have to bring down much larger opponents.

Wrestlers lead extremely disciplined lives. Everything they do — from what they eat to how they dress — is governed by tradition.

Every year, Japan has six Honbasho or Grand Sumo tournaments, as rikishi (wrestlers) grapple to become eligible for the grand prize: the Emperor's Cup. The most recent concluded last month; there are three more to go.

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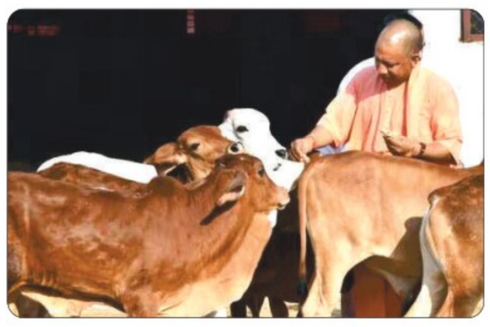
UTTAR PRADESH AT A GLANCE

Navnirman Ke Varsh

- **12.38 Lakh** Cattle Protected
- **388.15 LMT** Milk Output
- **13.30 LMT** Fish Production
- **6110.83 Million** Egg Production (2024-25)
- **480 MT** Silk Thread Production

Livestock & Animal Health

From cow protection to rural prosperity



- **7,451** Cattle Shelters
- **₹2,100 Cr** Total Provision
- **155** Large Cow Centres Under Construction
- **₹50 DBT** Per Cattle / Day

- With a strong commitment to cattle welfare, the state has developed a network of 7,451 cattle shelters, comprising temporary cow shelters, large cattle protection centres, Kanji Houses and Kanha Gaushalas, offering protection and care to nearly 12.38 lakh cattle.
- 39,815 hectares of land freed from encroachment in 2025-26. Napier grass and green fodder cultivated on 7,008.16 hectares.
- Under Mukhyamantri Sahbhagita Yojana, 1,82,231 cattle handed over to willing farmers / livestock-rearing families.
- Financial assistance of ₹50 per day per cattle through DBT.
- Master plan to develop nearly 7,500 cow shelters as Organic Fertilizer Production Centres with the participation of women and Krishi Sakhis across 75 districts.

Veterinary Care That Reaches Every Farmer

- During 2025–26, veterinary treatment was provided to 213.61 lakh animals against a target of 353.13 lakh, ensuring healthcare support for millions of livestock across the state.
- 348.76 lakh FMD vaccinations administered against a target of 473.70 lakh.
- 849.97 lakh vaccinations administered against annual target of 1,152.94 lakh doses.
- 520 Mobile Veterinary Units operational across the state.
- Toll-free helpline number 1962 is operational to provide free assistance.

Expanding healthcare access through vaccinations, mobile units and farmer helplines

Mobile Veterinary Care At Farmers' Doorsteps

520 Mobile Veterinary Units Operational Across the State

Veterinary Services Delivered in 2025-26:

13.48 lakh livestock owners and **26.93 lakh** animals.

India's Largest Milk Economy

With 388.15 LMT milk production in 2024-25, Uttar Pradesh leads India, contributing 16.2% of national output. The Nand Baba Milk Mission supports sustaining this leadership.

- ₹550 crore investment through 54 projects.
- +39 Lakh LPD Processing Capacity Added
- ₹12.74 crore subsidy provided to investors.

Strengthening dairy cooperatives & Dairy infrastructure

- **₹550 Cr** Investment
- **+39 Lakh LPD** Processing Capacity Increase
- **19** Milk Unions
- **3,201** Societies Constituted

- **MEERUT** Greenfield Dairy Plant with a capacity of 4 lakh litre per day completed.
- **MATHURA** New dairy project with a capacity of 30,000 litres proposed.
- **BANDA** New 20,000 LPD dairy plant established.
- **VARANASI** 20 MTPD capacity powder plant set up.

Building Uttar Pradesh's Blue Economy

Fish production growth trajectory

- **5,151** Backyard Re-circulation Units
- **1,131** Cages
- **235** Feed mills
- **9** Mobile Aerators
- **2,763 ha** New ponds developed
- **1,306** Biofloc units
- **84** Hatcheries
- **1,304** RAS Units

- **₹868 Cr** investment under Matsya Sampada Yojana with 73 centres
- **314** Aerators provided to women fish farmers with 40% subsidy
- **463 Lakh** Fish fingerlings released
- **1,20,295** Fish farmer insured

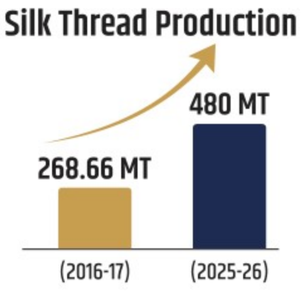
Best State of Inland Fisheries Award in 2020-21 & 2025-26

DIVERSIFYING RURAL LIVELIHOODS

Sericulture: A New Source of Self-employment

- Sericulture activities in 57 districts.
- Free training at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Government Sericulture Training Institute, Mirzapur.
- Action underway for Regional Sericulture Research Station in Gonda.

Silk Thread Production



Chief Minister Sericulture Development scheme

Under the Scheme, Uttar Pradesh is promoting sericulture through mulberry cultivation on 9,000 acres across 14 districts, benefiting 13,500 farmers and targeting an additional 360 metric tonnes of silk thread production to boost rural livelihoods, farmer incomes, and self-employment.

Strengthening Small Ruminant Livelihoods

- **980** Artificial insemination centres for goats across 70 districts.
- **450** Sheep farming units established across the state.

Sheep and Goat Farming Training Centre operational in Etawah.

Poultry Growth & Kisan Credit Support

Poultry development at scale

- State's share in national egg production increased from 2.6% (2016-17) to 4.1%.
- Egg production: 5,920.67 million (2023-24) | 6,110.83 million (2024-25).
- Target to increase share to 10% in the next five years.
- Under Uttar Pradesh Poultry Development Policy-2022:
  - **224** Financing Approvals Issued Online
  - **206** Poultry units approved
  - **₹517.16 Cr** Expected investment
  - **27,780** Direct & indirect Jobs Created

Operational poultry units

- 14 units with 60,000 birds capacity
- 315 units with 10,000 birds capacity
- 1 unit with 20,000 birds capacity
- 360 units with 30,000 birds capacity
- 46 broiler parent farm units with 10,000 birds
- 1 broiler parent farm unit with 30,000 birds

Expanding Credit Access for Fish Farmers

More than 6.88 lakhs KCCs distributed under Animal Husbandry Component (by March 2025).

1,36,460 KCCs issued to fish farmers so far.

BUILDING A RESILIENT SELF-RELIANT RURAL ECONOMY

Across livestock, dairy, fisheries, poultry and sericulture, Uttar Pradesh is shaping an integrated rural economy that empowers farmers, expands livelihood opportunities and lays the foundation for sustainable, self-reliant growth.

उत्तर प्रदेश UTTAR PRADESH

A BG-BGE

JUST LEAP

LARSEN & TOUBRO

Address by
Mr. S. N. Subrahmanyan
Chairman & Managing Director

INDIA TAKES THE LEAP

L&T advances with clarity and conviction – navigating a volatile world, delivering on promises, and building a stronger tomorrow.

81st Annual General Meeting | June 5, 2026

Dear Shareholders,

I am addressing you at a time when the world is recalibrating. Geopolitical realignments, shifting trade regimes, the accelerating march of artificial intelligence, and a lingering and enduring conflict in West Asia have created an environment that demands both steadiness and boldness.

As a company that has weathered the ups and downs of nearly nine decades, L&T does not flinch in the face of complexity. We lean in – guided by our enduring mantra: ***Can do. Will do. Will get it done.***

The year under review, FY 2025-26, was one of steady, purposeful progress. Record order inflows, a robust order book, improved profitability, and a deliberate strengthening of our technology backbone have reinforced the Company's position as a globally respected engineering and technology enterprise. Even as external headwinds tested our resolve, your Company delivered – across geographies, verticals, and stakeholder expectations.

We have commenced our next five-year strategic journey, Lakshya 2031, with a clear mandate: to make L&T more agile, more digitally driven, more profitable, and more future-ready. This is not merely a growth target – it is a declaration of intent.

Group Performance Overview FY 2025-26

Order Inflow	₹ 4,35,590 crore (up 22%)
Order Book	₹ 7,40,327 crore (up 28%)
Revenue	₹ 2,85,874 crore (up 12%)
Recurring PAT	₹ 17,238 crore (up 18%)
Net Debt : Equity ratio	0.35 : 1 (improved from 0.6 : 1)

I am pleased to inform you that the Board of Directors has recommended a final dividend of ₹ 38/- per share for FY 2025-26.

Growth Amidst a Global Reset

Multiple forces were at play that influenced the operating environment in FY 2025-26. Tariffs and countermeasures disrupted trade flows. Supply chain dislocations rippled across industries, from agriculture to semiconductors. Geopolitical tensions in West Asia created near-term uncertainty in a region that accounts for nearly one-third of your Company's annual revenues. Meanwhile, the rapid rise of AI has opened vast new frontiers – redefining what industries can build, how they operate, and who leads.

Through it all, your Company remained anchored. Our GCC operations continued without material disruption – over 100 project sites operated normally, with invoicing, collections on schedule, and most importantly, people and assets safe. This is the dividend of decades of trust built with clients, governments, and communities.

Domestically, India's infrastructure-led growth story remains compelling. Early signs of renewed private investment in energy transition, data centers, electronics and semiconductors are expanding the horizon of opportunity. The passage of the SHANTI Act promises to unlock significant interest in small modular reactors – an area where L&T's engineering expertise in nuclear-grade pressure vessels gives it a meaningful advantage.

Leadership in uncertain times is not the absence of challenge. It is the quality of the response. Your Company has responded with discipline – conserving cash, sharpening working capital management, adopting selective project bidding, and continuing to invest in the capabilities that will define tomorrow.

Varanasi Cricket Stadium, Gajari, Uttar Pradesh

Group Businesses

1. Infrastructure

Your Company's capacity to deliver large-scale, complex EPC projects with precision and punctuality remains its greatest differentiator.

Milestones this year:

- Kartavya Bhavan 1, 2 & 3 and Seva Teerth in Delhi, inaugurated by the Prime Minister
- Phase 1 of Navi Mumbai International Airport, inaugurated by the Prime Minister
- Patna Medical College and Hospital Phase 1 inaugurated – set to become the world's second-largest hospital upon completion
- Gateway of Guwahati – India's first modern river ferry terminal – inaugurated on the Brahmaputra
- Inauguration of the 112.5 MW Goaltore solar power plant in West Bengal – one of the largest renewable power projects in eastern India

Residue Upgradation Facility (RUF), HPCL Vizag Refinery, Andhra Pradesh

2. Energy

Pursuing a comprehensive energy transition strategy through four verticals – Hydrocarbon Onshore, Hydrocarbon Offshore, Offshore Wind and CarbonLite Solutions – your Company is powering both the present and the future.

Milestones this year:

- Commissioning of Jafurah Gas Compression Project Phase-1 for Saudi Aramco, KSA
- Commissioning of the 3.55 MMTPA Residue Upgradation Facility for HPCL at Visakhapatnam
- Completion of India's first full-scale offshore decommissioning – the BGEPIL Tapti project
- Commercial Operation Declaration (COD) achieved for Unit-1 at SJVN's 2x660 MW thermal plant in Bihar

3. Hi-Tech Manufacturing

A pioneer in import substitution, the Heavy Engineering vertical leads globally in engineered-to-order equipment. The Company's Precision Engineering and Systems division is well positioned to capitalise on India's *Aatmanirbharta* thrust across defence, aeronautics and space.

Close-in Weapon System (CIWS) – indigenous air defence solution for countering aircraft & drones

Milestones this year:

- Manufactured one of the heaviest Cr-Mo-V Hydrocracking Reactors for ExxonMobil's Baytown Refinery in Texas
- L&T and HAL jointly produced India's first industry-manufactured PSLV rocket
- Unveiling of Zorawar Light Tank, jointly developed with DRDO
- Delivery of India's first Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, co-developed with GRSE
- Execution of one of the most complex and time-critical refinery turnarounds for Saudi Arabia's PRC HOFCC Converter Unit
- Formation of L&T Electronic Products & Systems, a dedicated business unit for creating IP-driven, design-led electronics product platforms for energy, mobility, defence and other verticals and a 40-acre integrated campus in Coimbatore positioned as a large-scale, future-ready electronics manufacturing hub

4. Services (IT, Engineering and Financial)

Your Company's listed services businesses remain focused on long-term value creation.

- **LTM (formerly LTIMindtree)**, India's 6th largest IT services company was rebranded as LTM Limited and repositioned as an AI-centric 'Business Creativity Partner'. The company has recorded its largest-ever deal wins during the year, including a landmark contribution to the PAN 2.0 Project for India's Income Tax Department. New service offerings like its BlueVerse ecosystem enable clients to scale AI responsibly, enhancing their growth.

- **L&T Technology Services (LTTS)** is a global leader in Engineering R&D across 25 countries. Across the year, the company launched proprietary agentic AI platforms, inaugurated a new ITAR-compliant Engineering Design Center in Texas, and now holds a portfolio of 1,706 patents, including 673 own filings and 273 in the AI/GenAI domain.

- **L&T Finance** is a technology-driven NBFC, with a domestic 'AAA' rating and a 98% retailised loan book. The company, which has been assigned debut Investment Grade Credit Rating by international rating agencies, acquired the gold loan business of Paul Merchants Finance Private Limited along with 130 branches and a gold loan portfolio of ₹ 1,350 crore. New initiatives like 'Project Cyclops', a proprietary AI-driven 3D digital credit engine and 'Project Nostradamus' – an automated real-time cross-sell, risk and portfolio management system are helping boost profitability through technology.

- **Green Energy:** The Company's entry into the green energy sector is supported by an integrated business model spanning the full industry value chain, structured around two core segments, i.e. Asset Development for Green Hydrogen and its derivatives, and Hi-Tech Manufacturing for Electrolysers. This approach is best showcased in an upcoming 10 KTPA green hydrogen plant in Panipat, Haryana and the successful indigenisation of a 4 MW electrolyser stack featuring next-generation zero-gap technology in Hazira, Gujarat. It has also entered into a joint development arrangement with ITOCHU Corporation, Japan, for green ammonia production in Kandla, Gujarat.

Elara Celestia, Bengaluru, Karnataka

- **L&T Realty:** One of India's most trusted premium real estate developers, the company has a strong presence in Mumbai (MMR), Bengaluru, Chennai and Delhi (NCR), with a total portfolio of 71 million sq.ft. of development potential across residential, commercial and retail segments.

New-Age Businesses

Long-term global and national priorities continue to define your Company's foray into emerging sectors, particularly those where technology is poised to play a key role.

- **Larsen & Toubro Vyoma (formerly L&T-Cloudfiniti):** The business, in its new avatar, is looking to expand its bouquet of services through integration of advanced AI capabilities, cloud-native architectures and low-carbon operations to ensure scalability, security, sovereignty and sustainability. Towards this end, the company has entered into a partnership with NVIDIA, to develop high-performance, green AI data centers and sovereign AI infrastructure in India.

Data Center in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu

- **L&T Semiconductor Technologies (LTSCT):** As India's first fabless semiconductor firm focused on global smart device design across mobility, energy, industrial sectors and data center, LTSCT strengthened its capabilities through the acquisition of the Power Module Design Assets of Fujitsu General Electronics Ltd., Japan. The agreement includes the transfer of the power semiconductor R&D team, design patents, specialised equipment and core IP.

- **L&T-SuFin:** The B2B digital marketplace streamlines procurement, supply chains, logistics and financing for industrial and construction sectors. To provide focus and scale to the e-commerce platform, the business has been carved out into a wholly-owned subsidiary of L&T, namely SuFin Limited, to house the business effective from April 1, 2026.

- **L&T EduTech:** Crossed a milestone of 4,00,000 learners enrolled, launched an 'EV & Emerging Tech Experience Hub' in Chennai, and introduced dedicated AI prompt engineering modules for L&T employees.

Value Unlocking and Collaborations

While the Company unlocked value worth more than ₹ 8,300 crore by divesting its stake in non-core businesses, namely Hyderabad Metro Rail and Nabha Power, it has also entered into a number of collaborations aimed at exploring emerging opportunities. L&T strengthened its strategic partnerships across energy, defence, AI and technology by collaborating with Hitachi Energy on major North Sea HVDC projects, joining forces with Bharat Electronics Limited and General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. for advanced defence and drone manufacturing initiatives, announcing a proposed venture under the IndiaAI Mission to build sovereign, scalable GW-scale NVIDIA AI factory infrastructure, and signing a technology agreement with CP PLUS to advance indigenous Vision AI surveillance systems.

Tech-cellence – The Way Forward

With digitalisation as an accelerator, your Company is leveraging its engineering prowess to reposition itself as a technology-driven solutions provider. Digitally connecting over 17,000 assets across global projects and manufacturing bases, bespoke Small Language Models are put to use to extract maximum value from the data generated. More than 100 algorithms have been developed – 34 fully functional – enabling predictive asset management and resource optimisation.

AI is emerging as a force multiplier with GenAI being embedded across the entire project life-cycle – from tendering and contract risk identification to design, execution, operations and maintenance.

ESG – Building Responsibly

Your Company, as a responsible corporate citizen, has embedded ESG (environment, social and governance) principles into its core business strategy.

- Our Green Business now constitutes 51% of standalone revenues
- We have launched India's first listed Sustainability-Linked Bond worth ₹ 500 crore and a USD 700 million Sustainability-Linked Trade Facility with Standard Chartered
- We are aiming for Water Neutrality by 2035, Carbon Neutrality by 2040, and currently source 19% of our electricity from renewable energy sources
- We have planted over 1 million saplings and raised the water table by almost 10 metres across 44,856 hectares in three states
- Our CSR initiatives have positively impacted over 1.9 million lives, including STEM education for 51,741 students across 341 schools

STEM session in progress at Project Jyoti

The Human Edge

Technology can compute, analyse and provide insights. Only people can take the judgement call and lead. Your Company's greatest asset remains its people – their ingenuity, integrity and courage to take the leap. In FY 2025-26, employees clocked nearly 40 lakh learning hours, reflecting an organisation ethos of nurturing future-ready talent. L&T's women workforce now constitutes close to 10% of total employees – a meaningful step towards achieving the Company's DEI goals.

L&T has been recognised as a 'Great Place to Work' – for the third consecutive year. This is not a certification. It is a reflection of the culture your Company has built: one that rewards performance, nurtures potential, and treats every employee as a stakeholder in a larger mission.

Looking Ahead

As we embark on Lakshya 2031, we do so with confidence – rooted in a diversified business portfolio, a strong balance sheet, a proven execution culture, and a team that has demonstrated time and again that no challenge is too complex to solve. The near term may hold more volatility. The long arc, however, bends decisively in L&T's direction.

I express my sincere gratitude to our customers, employees, vendor-partners, supply chain allies, and the Government for their continued trust and support. To my fellow Board members – thank you for your guidance and counsel as we chart the path forward. And to you, our shareholders – your enduring confidence is the bedrock on which we build.

We look forward to your continued partnership as L&T pursues tech-cellence – and a better tomorrow for all.

JAI HIND

Note: This does not purport to be a record of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting of Larsen & Toubro Limited held on June 5, 2026.

For the Chairman's Statement, please visit investors.Larsentoubro.com

CBMC/ssp/2026June04

Two held for being in contact with Pakistan man

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Tumakuru police arrested two persons on Thursday for allegedly being in contact with a person in Pakistan through social media platforms and discussing communal ideas.

The suspects have been identified as Allabakash from Tumakuru and Zamir Khan from Davangere, both in their mid-20s. They were allegedly in contact with a person identified as "Rana". "The chats between Allabakash and his handler revealed that they were planning to carry out terror acts in the country after recruiting more people," stated a press release.

A senior police officer told *The Hindu* that the suspects were in regular contact with the individual through social media channels.

"We have arrested them and seized their electronic devices. The investigation is at a preliminary stage, and we are yet to establish links," the officer said.

Woman, friend held for husband's murder

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police have arrested a 21-year-old woman and her male friend on charges of murdering her husband and disposing of his body to destroy evidence.

The accused have been identified as Archana Chauhan, a native of Uttar Pradesh, and her friend, Parul Pal, a security guard from Tripura. The victim has been identified as Abhijith Pandit.

According to the police, the incident unfolded on May 27. Pal and his associates allegedly strangled Pandit with a rope while they were partying. They later disposed of the body near a lake in Linganahalli in Hesaraghatta. Archana allegedly assisted Pal in the crime.

The following day, Archana filed a missing person complaint at the Rajanakunte Police Station.

The police questioned Archana and Pal, as they worked together. An investigator told *The Hindu* that both accused gave suspicious responses and, upon intensive questioning, confessed to the crime. Based on their statements, the police exhumed the body from the location where it had been disposed of. Further probe is under way.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client **('Client')** is desirous of entering into certain arrangements in connection with the immovable properties more fully described in the '**Schedule**' hereunder and are hereinafter collectively referred to as the '**Schedule Properties**' with the owners listed in the table herein below **('Owners')**. The Owners have represented to our Client that they are the absolute owners of their respective portions in the Schedule Properties, with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the Owners, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties is/ are here by called upon to submit to the undersigned, their claim/s, if any, over the Schedule Properties or their objections, if any, to the said transaction. The said claim/s or objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof of such claim/s or objections, so as to reach us at the address given below, within a period of **15 (fifteen) days** from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such claim/s or objections are received within the said period of 15 (fifteen) days, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the Owners has/ have any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties. Further, any claims or alleged interests, if any, which are not received within the said period of 15 (fifteen) days shall be deemed to have been consciously waived and disregarded for all intents and purposes and shall thereafter not be binding on our Client and our Client would be at liberty to proceed with the said transaction in connection with the Schedule Properties.

SCHEDULE

(Description of the Schedule Properties)

All that piece and parcel of immovable properties being agricultural lands admeasuring in total 24 Acres 39 Guntas, all situated at Mavallipura Village, Hesarughatta Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk and Bangalore Urban District, and described in the table below:

Sl. No.	Survey No.	Extent (Excluding Kharab)		Name of the Owners	Bounded on the -			
		Acres	Guntas		East by	West by	North by	South by
1.	10	04 (out of 06 Acres 25 Guntas)	01	Mrs. N.G Shakuntala, Wife of Late. N. Channamallaiah and others	Sy No.8	Sy No. 8 & 11/2	Remaining land from Sy No.10	Sy No. 11/2
2.	11/1	01	30	Mr. J.S Naresh, Son of Late. M. Shamahaiah and others	Sy No.8 & 12/1	Sy No.13/1	Sy No.11/2	Sy Nos. 12/1 & 13/1
3.	11/2	03	24	Mr. T.N Lohith, Son of Mr. Nanjundappa	Sy No.8 & 10	Sy No.13/1 & 8	Sy No. 10	Sy No.11/1
4.	12/1	01	03	Mr. J.S Naresh, Son of Late. M. Shamanna and others	Sy No.8	Sy No.13/1 & 11/1	Sy No. 11/1	Sy No.12/8, 12/5, 12/3 & 12/2
5.	13/1	04	12	Mr. A. Siddappa, Son of Mr. Anjinappa	Sy No.12/11 12/10,12/9,12/8 11/1 &11/2	Sy No.13/2 & 13/3	Sy No. 8 & 11/1	Byala Kere Gadi
6.	13/3	00	30	Ms. Akshitha M, daughter of Mr. A. Muniraju	Sy No.13/1	Sy No.14/3	Sy No. 8	Sy No.13/2
7.	14/3	03	00	Mr. A Muniraju, Son of Mr. Anjinappa	Sy No.13/2 & 13/3	Sy No.14/4 & 14/2	Sy No. 8	Byala Kere Gadi
8.	26	04 (out of 05 Acres 36 Guntas)	26	Mr. Veeranjinappa Son of Late. Bachanna, Mr. B Ramanjinappa, Son of Late. Bachanna, Mr. M.R Ashok, Son of Late M.B Rajanna Mr. Byre Gowda, Son of Late Bylappa	Sy No.8	Remaining land from Sy No.26	Sy No. 28 & 27/6	Sy No. 8
9.	27/5	00	36	Mr. Nagaraju B, Son of Late. Byranna	Sy No.8	Sy No.28	Sy No. 27/4	Sy No. 27/6
10.	27/6	00	37	Mr. Devaraj B, Son of Late. Byranna	Sy No.8	Sy No.28 & 26	Sy No. 27/5	Sy No. 26 & 8

Date: 05.06.2026
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/-
Ms. Brijita Prakash, Partner, **J. Sagar Associates,** Advocates & Solicitors,
18th Floor, SKAV 909, No. 9/1, Residency Road, Richmond Circle, Bengaluru-560025
Ph: 080-43503600/ 43503676. E-mail: brijita.prakash@jsalaw.com

धुळे महानगरपालिका, धुळे

बांधकाम विभाग – ई निविदा सुचना क्र. 41 सन 2026-27

मा. आयुक्त, धुळे महानगरपालिका, धुळे हे खालील कामाकरीता ई निविदा प्रणालीद्वारे (ऑनलाईन) कुठलाही **सक्षम कंत्राटदार निविदेतील अटी व शर्ती पुर्ण करतील अशा कंत्राटदारांकडुन** B_1 नमुन्यातील निविदा ई- निविदा प्रणालीद्वारे (ऑन लाईन) मागवीत आहोत.

वरील निविदा सुचणेत धुळे मनपा हद्दीतील दसेरा मैदान येथे संरक्षण भिंत बांधणे कामांची निविदांची संपूर्ण माहिती व निविदा दि. ०८/०६/२०२६ रोजी संध्याकाळी १७.०५ ते दि.१७/०६/२०२६ रोजी सकाळी ११.०० वाजेपावेतो डाऊन लोडिंगसाठी https://mahatender.gov.in या संकेतस्थळावर उपलब्ध करून देण्यात येईल. सदर कामांची निविदा दि.१८/०६/२०२६ रोजी सकाळी ११.०५ वाजता शक्य झाल्यास उघडण्यात येईल. प्राप्त होणाऱ्या निविदापैकी एक किंवा सर्व निविदा स्वीकारणेचे अथवा नाकारण्याचे अधिकार सक्षम अधिकारी यांचेकडे राहतील.

सही/-
उपायुक्त
धुळे महानगरपालिका, धुळे

जा.क्र./ धुमपा/ बां.वि./ ३१/ 2026-27
दिनांक ०५/०६/2026

ICTS INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THEORETICAL SCIENCES

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research tifr

An Autonomous Institute of the Department of Atomic Energy of Government of India and a Deemed to be University

No 151, Shivakote, Hessarghatta Hobli, Bengaluru (North)-560089, India, Tel : +91-80-46536000

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Advertisement No: ICTS-Notice-2026/03 **Date: 06th June 2026**

The Centre is looking for highly motivated and self-driven individuals for an appointment for the below post at its Bengaluru Campus.

Sl No.	Position	No. of posts	Upper age limit (as on 1st Jan 2026)	Consolidated Monthly Emoluments
1	Clerk Trainee	01	28	22000

Candidates should report for the selection process on **Thursday, 18 June 2026, at 10:00 am** with a copy of their CV and relevant original certificates stating their educational qualifications and experience along with a photocopy of all the documents. For more information, please visit the website **www.icts.res.in.**

Establishment Section

Punjab Energy Development Agency
Government of Punjab
E-Tender No.- PEDA/2026-27/06

Dt.: 05.06.2026

PEDA invites online bids from reputed companies regarding Integrated Architectural Design & Engineering Consultancy Services for the proposed Punjab Energy Conservation Complex (PECC) as a Super ECBC compliant Model demonstration building of PEDA at Sector-65, Distt. S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali), Punjab as per scope of work and other terms & conditions mentioned in DNIT.

Date & Time for Pre-Bid Meeting – 15.06.2026 at 11:30 AM
Closing date & time for Submission of e-bids – 06.07.2026 upto 5:00 PM
Date & time for Opening of technical bids – 07.07.2026 at 11:30 AM

For details log on to - **www.eproc.punjab.gov.in**

Note – Any corrigendum / addendum, if any, will be published on the above website only.

1034/12/2026-27/12029 **DIRECTOR**

SANJAY GANDHI POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

RAEBARELI ROAD, LUCKNOW-226014 (U.P.), INDIA
TELEPHONE: 91-0522-2494000, 2495000, 2496000, 2494304, 2495554

IMPORTANT NOTICE (RECRUITMENT)

It is hereby to inform all candidates who have applied for the post of **Hospital Attendant Gr-II & Nursing Officer** vide Advt No. I/08/11/Rectt/2025-26 & Advt. No. I/08/1/Rectt/2025-26 that the Recruitment Examination for the above-mentioned posts will be held in **2 (Two) Stages - Preliminary (Stage-I) & Main Examination (Stage-II).**

1. Candidates who will qualify in Stage-I Examination as per the Advertisement shall be eligible to appear in Stage-II Examination.
2. Candidates will NOT be required to Re-apply or Pay any Fee to appear in the Stage-II Examination.
3. The dates and centres of the Stage-II Examination will be intimated to the concerned candidates separately.

Note: Candidates are advised to regularly visit their email & Institute website **www.sgpgims.org.in** for further updates.

Advertisement No.: I/22/Rectt/2026-27 **Dated: 06.06.2026** **Director**

RAJASTHAN MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.

Gandhi Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur-302005, India, Phone No: 0141-2228066, 2228064,
Website: www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in, CIN : U24232RJ2011SGC035067, E-mail : edpssrmsc@rajasthan.gov.in

Ref No. :- F.02 (445)/RMSCL/PROCUREMENT/DRUG/NIB-07/2026-27/4414 Dated :- 02/06/2026

Notice Inviting E-Bids

S. No.	Item Name/ Description	Ref. No.	UBN	Estimated Value Rs. in Crore	Last Time & Last date for bid submission
1	Drugs & Medicines	Ref. No.: F.02 (445)/RMSCL/ Procurement/Drug/NIB-07/ 2026-27/4384 Dated : 02.06.2026	MSC2627GLRC00025	100.10 Crore	02.07.2026 upto 06.00 pm

Raj.Samwad/C/26/4265 Executive Director (Procurement)

NORTH WESTERN KARNATAKA ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION, CENTRAL OFFICES, HUBBALLI

SHORT TERM/TENDER NOTIFICATION NO. 03 / 2026-27
DATE : 05-06-2026 Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP)

Tenders are invited from the interested bidders for supply of the materials as shown below.

Sl. No.	Description of the tender	Tender Value (Approx.)
1	2K PU Paints and Allied Materials	Rs. **550.00** lakh
2	Thermal Paper Rolls for ETMs	Rs. **133.00** lakh
3	Leak off pipes	Rs. **102.00** lakh
4	Cold Applied Self Adhesive Polymer Modified Bituminous Composite membrane with Aluminium Foil at the top.	Rs. **80.00** lakh
5	GP Coils	Rs. **45.00** lakh
6	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Plant and Machinery Equipment on turnkey basis for reconditioning work at Regional Workshop, Hubballi.	Rs. **40.00** lakh

Last date and time for submission of bids is **22-06-2026** till 17.30 Hrs.

For details visit website :http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or Contact Mobile Phone No. 7022009113.

Sd/- Controller of Stores & Purchases, (Tender Inviting Authority)

DIPR/Dharwad/KSMCA/262/2026-27

UNION BANK OF INDIA

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Union Bank of India

(A Government of India Undertaking)
Regional Office : 2254, Kousalya, 3rd Floor, Vinoba Road, Mysuru-570005

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised officer of **Union Bank of India** (secured Creditor) will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is basis"** on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder.

Channapatna Branch No. 2911/4-10, B M Road, Kuvempunagar, Channapatna, Ramanagara - 562160
Ph: 9744880055 Mail Id: ubin0910821@unionbankofindia.bank.in

1. Name And Address Of the Borrower, Co-application And Guarantor :
1. Mr. Kenchappa M P S/o Kenchegowda Puttaswamaiah, No-62, Malurpatna Village, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara – 562160
2. Mrs. Sugana W/o Kenchappa M P, No-62, Malurpatna Village, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara – 562160
Amount due : Rs. 86,02,871-00 as on 31-05-2026 with further interest, cost & expenses
Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold : All The Part And Parcel of Residential Site And Building In The Name Of **Mr. Kenchappa M P.** Bearing Kaneshumari No. 557/557, E-Katha No 152900101900400597, Situated At Malurpatna Village, Malur Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara – 562160. **Measuring North-South: 160 Feet, East-West : (50+80) /2 Total 10400 Square feet (As Per Valuation) Whereas In Actual It Is Measuring East - West : 160 Feet, North - South : (30+70) /2 Total 8000 Square feet, Bouned On The East:** Kariappa, Murlidhar, Shanthamma & Puttaswamy, **West:** Govt Oni, Marana Khatta, **North:** Pvt Property, **South:** Road And Lingaiah's Property

Reserve Price : Rs. 30,60,000-00 (Rupees Thirty Lakhs Sixty Thousand Only)
Earnest Money to Be Deposited : Rs. 3,06,000-00 (Rupees Three Lakhs Six Thousand Only)

2. Name And Address Of the Borrower, Co-application And Guarantor :
1. M/s Manjushree Enterprises, Old Parvathy Talkies Road, Channapatna, Ramanagara Dist., Karnataka-562160
2. Mr. Manjunatha H S/o Hanumaiah, No.118, Yelekere, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara Dist., Karnataka-562160
3. Mrs. Girija G V W/o Manjunath H, No. 118, Yelekere, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara Dist., Karnataka-562160
Amount due : Rs. 28,25,509-00 as on 31-05-2026 with further interest, cost & expenses
Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold : All The Part And Parcel Of Vacant Site In The Name Of **Mr. H Manjunatha,** Bearing Municipal Katha No. 168, Municipal Door No. 160/116/1, Situated At Vakkaligara Beedi, Yelekeri, Channapatna Town, A Division, Ramanagara Dist, **Measuring 2170 Square feet, Bounded On The East :** S Narayanagowda's Residence, **West :** Property Of Hanumaiah, **North :** Property Of Divakar, **South :** Municipal Road.

Reserve Price : Rs. 26,56,080-00 (Rupees Twenty Six Lakhs Fifty Six Thousand and Eighty Only)
Earnest Money to Be Deposited :
Rs. 2,65,608-00 (Rupees Two Lakhs Sixty Five Thousand Six Hundred and Eight Only)

Harohalli branch, Kempaiah building, Harohalli Village & Post, Ramanagara - 562112
Ph: 7351002858, Mail id: ubin0814580@unionbankofindia.bank.in

3. Name And Address Of the Borrower, Co-application And Guarantor :
1. Mr. Swamy M (as he is Deceased, His Legal Heirs) A. Mrs. Manjula M W/o Late Swamy M, **B. Master Yogaraju S C., Miss Amrutha S,** All are Residing at : Karadi Gudde Pipeline Road, SAMRAT Ashoka Nagara, Kanakapura Town, Ramanagara - 562117
2. Mrs. Manjula M W/o Late Swamy M, Karadi Gudde Pipeline Road, SAMRAT Ashoka Nagara, Kanakapura Town, Ramanagara - 562117
Amount due : Rs. 18,88,654-00 as on 31-05-2026 with further interest, cost & expenses
Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold : All The Part And The Parcel Of Residential House In The Name Of **Mr. Late. Swamy M.** Bearing No 77, CMC Khatha No 9020/7710/77, Situated At Eastern Side Of Mysuru Road, Pipe Line Road, Kanakapura, Ramanagara – 562117, **Measuring East-West 40 Feet, North-South 20 Feet, Total 800 Sqare feet, Bounded By East-** Site No 76, **West-** Road, **North-** Site No 78, **South-** Road.

Reserve Price : Rs.29,35,319-00
(Rupees Twenty Nine Lakhs Thirty Five Thousand Three Hundred And Nineteen Only)
Earnest Money to Be Deposited :
Rs. 2,93,532-00 (Rupees Two Lakhs Ninety Three Thousand Five Hundred And Thirty Two Only).

Ramanagara E-CB, Branch, #316, Ijoor, Near Bus Stand, Ramanagara – 571511
Contact No: - 9446252388, Mail Id: ubin0910872@unionbankofindia.bank.in

4. Name And Address Of the Borrower, Co-application And Guarantor :
1) M/s. S P R Silks, Proprietor Sadiq Pasha, 1st Cross, Near Noorani Mosque, Yarab Nagar, Ramanagara - 571511.
2) Mr. Ziaulla, S/o Shafiulla, No – 3653, Mehaboob Nagar, Ramanagara. -571511
Amount due : Rs. 94,50,637-00 as on 31-05-2026 with further interest, cost & expenses
Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold : All The Prat And Parcel Of Residential House In The Name Of **Sadik Pasha,** Property Bearing No. 21/4, New No.789/21/4, Situated At Ward No. 24/4, Kothipura Extension, Ramanagara, **Measuring East-West: 95 Feet, North-South: 40 Feet Total 3800 Square feet. Bounded On East:** Land Of Mukthar Pasha, **West:** Land Of Mukthar Pasha, **North:** Road, **South:** Government Halla.

Reserve Price :
Rs. 57,44,156-00 (Rupees Fifty Seven lakhs Forty Four Thousand One Hundred and Fifty Six Only)
Earnest Money to Be Deposited :
Rs. 5,74,416-00 (Rupees Five Lakhs Seventy four Thousand Four Hundred and Sixteen Only)

Date and time of E-Auction : Date: 24-06-2026 From 12.00 pm to 5.00 PM (with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)
Last date for submission of EMD : On or before the commencement of e-Auction.
E-auction website- https://baanknet.com

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale and registration and login and bidding rules visit : please refer to the link provided : https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/auction-property/view-auction-property.aspx and www.unionbankofindia.co.in

Date : 06-06-2026
Place : Mysuru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNBAL - I, BENGALURU

No. 4, Second Floor, LIC Jeevan Mangal Building
Residency Road, Bengaluru - 560 025.

Form No. 14
(See Regulation 33(2))

DRC No. 911 / 2019

Syndicate Bank
Attibele Branch, Attibele - 562 107, Anekal Taluk.
... Certificate Holder

Versus

Sri. Allallappa & Another **... Certified Debtor(s)**

DEMAND NOTICE

To,
1. Sri. Allallappa S/o. Late Muni Kaverappa
Res. At : Parvatinagar, Chikannanahalli, Ambedkar Colony, Attibele Village, Anekal Taluk.
2. Sri. Madana Giriyappa S/o. Sri. Muniyellappa
R/at : No. 78, Arehalli Village, Mayasandra Village Post, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk.

In view of the Recovery Certificate issued in **O.A. No. 97 / 2019** passed by the **Hon'ble Presiding Officer, DRT, Bengaluru on 20-09-2019** an amount of **Rs. 65,83,836.88/- (Rupees Sixty Five Lakh Eighty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Six and Paisa Eighty Eight Only)** is due against you along with interest and costs from date of filing of O.A. till realization.

You are hereby called upon to deposit the above sum within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.

In addition to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay.

(a) Such interest as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the execution proceedings.

(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal, on **19th day of October 2019.**

(Rajasekharan .R)
Recovery Officer - 1
DRT - 1 : Bengaluru
E-mail : rajasekharan.r@nic.in

Note : Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below.

"Rule 16(1) where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money.

(2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment."

Form No. 14
(See Regulation 33(2))

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE, DEPTT. OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNBAL - 2, BENGALURU

Jeevan Mangal Building (2nd Floor)
No. 4, Residency Road, Bengaluru - 560 025.

T.R.C. No. 391 / 2019

UCO Bank
Jayanagar Branch, Bengaluru. **... Certificate Holder Bank**

Versus

Sri. Umesh Naik B and Another **... Certified Debtor / Defendants**

DEMAND NOTICE

1. Sri. Umesh Naik .B S/o. Bhima Naik
No. 120, 1st Main Road, Kalika Nagar, Andrahalli Main Road, Bengaluru - 560 091.
Also At : Site No. 09, Khata No. 34, Property No. 34, Karivobanahalli Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk.
2. Smt. Chaya Bai W/o. Umesh Naik
No. 120, 1st Main Road, Kalika Nagar, Andrahalli Main Road, Bengaluru - 560 091.
Also At : Site No. 09, Khata No. 34, Property No. 34, Karivobanahalli Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk.
... Certified Debtor / Defendants

In view of the Recovery Certificate issued in **OA / 1408 / 2017** passed by the **Hon'ble Presiding Officer, DRT, Bengaluru on Dtd. 05.04.2019** an amount of **Rs. 79,63,484/- (Rupees Seventy Nine Lakh(s) Sixty Three Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Four Only)** is due against you along with interest and costs from date of filing of O.A. till realization of the Recovery Certificate.

In addition to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay all charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.

You are hereby called upon to deposit the amount within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal, on **20th day of August 2019.**

Recovery Officer - 1
Debts Recovery Tribunal - 2, Bangalore.

Note : Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below.

"Rule 16(1) where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money.

(2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment."

(3) You are also liable to disclose your assets both movable and immovable to the Tribunal along with the Income Tax Returns of last 5 year.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Lohith Yadawad, aged 42 years, S/o Basavaraj Yadawad, residing at No. 51, Ground Floor, 10th Cross, 11th Main Road, BHEL 2nd Stage, Jnanajyothi Layout, Ullal Main Road, Bengaluru - 560056, hereby declare that my son's name has been erroneously mentioned as **"Sai Aman"** instead of **"Harsha Yadawad."** Henceforth, my son's name shall be known and called as **"Harsha Yadawad"** for all purposes. This declaration is made vide Affidavit dated 05/06/2026 before Notary Sri H.R. Karunakara, Bengaluru.

RAMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Bengaluru – 560080

Advt. No. 16/2026 dt. 04.06.2026

Raman Research Institute is a premier autonomous institute engaged in research in basic sciences funded by the Government of India. The Institute is inviting applications for the following positions on Direct recruitment basis:

1. Personal Secretary – 1 post, 2. Assistants – 6 posts

Last date to apply is **06 July 2026**. For more details, please visit:
https://www.rri.res.in/careers/regular-other-openings

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that Our Clients **Mr.Venu Madhav K.S.** and **Mrs.Devyani Jain** are intending to enter into Sale Deed with Mrs.Geetha Sadashiva, Mr.Vishwanath T. and Mrs.Bhagya M. (Owners) for the Schedule A, B and C Properties respectively.

If anybody is having any objections, claims, interest, dispute whatsoever for the above intended transactions, he/she/they may contact the below mentioned person with the documentary proof substantiating his/her/their objections/claims/details of dispute/s within fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication, failing which, Our Clients will proceed to complete the transaction with the above owners as if there are no third party claims/ objections/ disputes in respect of the Schedule A, B and C Properties and thereafter no claims/objections/disputes will be entertained.

SCHEDULE A PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of agricultural property bearing Old Sy.No.23, New Sy.No.23/2 measuring 2 Acre including 20 Guntas Karab, situated at Therubeedi Villlage, Maralavadi Hobli, erstwhile Kanakapura Taluk, presently Harohalli Taluk, erstwhile Ramanagara District, presently Bangalore South District and bounded on; **East by :** Road and Sy.No.24/1; **West by :** Property belonging to Bhagya M. in Sy.No.23/4; **North by :** Sy.No.24/1, & Property belonging to Nagalingiah @T.D.Nagabushan in Sy.No.23/; **South by :** Sy.No.22/5.

SCHEDULE B PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of agricultural property bearing Old Sy.No.23, New Sy.No.23/3, measuring 1 Acre situated at Therubeedi Villlage, Maralavadi Hobli, erstwhile Kanakapura Taluk, presently Harohalli Taluk, erstwhile Ramanagara District, presently Bangalore South District and bounded on; **East by :** Property belonging to Bhagya M. in Sy.No.23/4; **West by :** Sy.No.22/2 and 22/3; **North by :** Property belonging to Nagalingiah @ T.D. Nagabushan in Sy.No.23/1; **South by :** Sy.No.22/4.

SCHEDULE C PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of agricultural property bearing Old Sy.No.23/2, New Sy.No.23/4, measuring 1 Acre 20 Guntas situated at Therubeedi Villlage, Maralavadi Hobli, erstwhile Kanakapura Taluk, presently Harohalli Taluk, erstwhile Ramanagara District, presently Bangalore South District and bounded on; **East by :** Property belonging to Geetha Sadashiva in Sy.No.23/2; **West by :** Property belonging to T.Vishwanath in Sy.No.23/3; **North by :** Property belonging to Nagalingiah @ T.D. Nagabushan in Sy.No.23/1; **South by :** Sy.No.22/5 and 22/4.

SANTHOSH U., ADVOCATE
No.M4, Shalimar Plaza, PG Halli Main, Malleshwaram, Bangalore- 560003 M-8884391100 / 8050756669
Email-santhuteam0@gmail.com

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Commissionerate of Agriculture,
Seshadri Road, Bengaluru – 560001

No.: DDA(F&M)/MNR/INM/Re/e-RfP/2026-27 Date: 06.06.2026

e-REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RfP) NOTIFICATION

The Technical and Financial Proposals are invited through GoK e-procurement portal from the registered Manufacturers/ Authorized distributors for Green Manure seed Pillepesaru (Phaseolus trilobus), Dolomite and Potash Derived from Rhodophytes required for various Departmental programmes for the year 2026-27. These Agricultural inputs are required for supply to farmers under different schemes of the Department.

Short Term Re-REQUEST for PROPOSAL(RfP) document is available in the e-Procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Suppliers must be accompanied by a Common Earnest Money Deposit (CEMD) for an amount of Rs.50,000/- which should be paid online through e-Procurement portal using any of the following payment modes : Credit Card-Visa or Master card, Debit card-Visa or Master card, Internet banking and offline payments through Remittance at the Bank counter using challan, National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT/RTGS). The Applicant has to further submit a Performance Bank Guarantee as per the Technical Proposals submitted along with the Copy of the documents uploaded, one day before or on the day of opening of technical proposal to "Deputy Director of Agriculture (Fertilizer and Manure), Commissionerate of Agriculture, Sheshadri Road, Bangalore".

Suppliers should upload the documents through e-Procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or before **22.06.2026** within **05:00 P.M.** The hard copies of the documents which are not uploaded online through e-procurement portal will not be accepted. The Proposal Scrutinizing Committee will open the Technical Proposal on **24.06.2026** at **11:00 AM** at Samruddhi Conference Hall, Department of Agriculture, Sheshadri Road, Bangalore – 560 001. The date of Financial Proposal opening will be communicated later. Estimated value of the RfP is approximately Rs.2.50 Crore.

DIPR/CP/LC/998/2026-27 **Sd/-, Director of Agriculture**

15L saplings to be planted

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has announced that a programme to plant 15 lakh saplings would be launched in the city on June 27 to mark the birth anniversary of Bengaluru founder Kempe Gowda. Speaking to mediapersons on Friday to mark World Environment Day, Mr. Shivakumar said the BDA would implement the programme.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, JUN. 06	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:44
RISE 23:28	SET 10:36
SUNDAY, JUN. 07	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:44
RISE 00:00	SET 11:26
MONDAY, JUN. 08	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:45
RISE 00:05	SET 12:14

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	32	21
Bengaluru	32	23

Bengaluru Today
32°C The weather will be little warm. Spell of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur. Night will be comfortable.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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HC stays operation and applicability of RERA norms for BDA projects

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the interim order on a petition filed by the BDA challenging the applicability of RERA provisions to its development activities carried out under the BDA Act

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BDA has moved the High Court after its contention that the authority does not come under the provisions of the RERA was rejected both by the Karnataka-Real Estate and Regulatory Authority and the Karnataka Real Estate Appellate Tribunal K. MURALI KUMAR

The High Court of Karnataka has stayed the operation and applicability of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, (RERA) to certain residential layouts and housing scheme projects undertaken by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) for which preliminary notifications for acquiring lands were issued prior to the commencement of the RERA framework.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the interim order on a petition filed by the BDA challenging the applicability of RERA provisions to its development activities carried out under the BDA Act and more particularly for the projects for which land acquisitions process had commenced prior to enforcement of the RERA.

Subject to uncertainties

Pointing out that the BDA undertakes a large-scale formation of layouts based on statutory land acquisition processes, which are often subject to uncertainties relating to timing, possession, and completion of acquisition proceedings, it was argued on its behalf that treating the BDA's projects as "ongoing real estate projects" under the RERA would impose obligations that are not practically compatible with the statutory framework governing acquisitions under the BDA Act.

The BDA moved the High Court after its contention that the authority does not come under the provisions of the RERA was rejected both by the Karnataka-Real Estate and Regulatory Authority (K-RERA) and the Karnataka Real Estate Appellate Tribunal.

This was following the litigations by allottees of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout for delay in completion and a severe lack of fundamental infrastructure like water, roads, electricity, and sewerage by the BDA. Both the authority and the tribunal had declared that when a public body like the BDA develops land and sells plots to the citizens for a consideration, it qualifies as a "promoter" under Section 2(zk) of the RERA Act, 2016.

Timeline impractical

The BDA has contended that as a statutory planning body operating under the BDA Act, 1976, its public welfare schemes cannot be treated as commercial real estate ventures, while arguing that complex land acquisition litigations make strict RERA timelines impractical.

In its petition, the BDA pleaded the court to either declare that the BDA does not fall under the category of "promoter" under the RERA, or alternatively, declare that provisions of the RERA would not apply to the BDA's projects for which preliminary notification for land acquisition were issued prior to May 1, 2017, when the RERA came into force.

Identify, clear garbage black spots in GBA limits: Lokayukta

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Lokayukta officials conducting an inspection at garbage black spots in Bengaluru on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Frustrated by the continued dumping of garbage at several locations across the city despite repeated directions to civic authorities, the Karnataka Lokayukta on Friday conducted inspections and directed officials to immediately clear identified waste black spots.

The Lokayukta had earlier taken *suo motu* cognisance of waste disposal and garbage dumping in areas falling under the five corporations of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). Several rounds of inquiries had already been conducted, with the GBA officials summoned on different occasions and given directions to address the problem. However, as the issue continues to persist and complaints are still being received, the Lokayukta constituted five teams comprising police officers of various ranks to assess the situation on the ground and submit reports, a statement from the Lokayukta said on Friday. The teams carried out inspections across the five corporations in the morning.

The inspections were carried out in R.T. Nagar, Byatarayanapura and surrounding areas under the North City Corporation where around six garbage black spots were identified.

ಇಂಡಿಯನ್ ಅರ್ಟಿಸನ್ ಬಜಾರ್
INDIAN ARTISAN BAZAAR
Arts, Crafts, Handlooms and Lifestyle Exhibition
5TH JUNE 2026 - 14TH JUNE 2026
10.30 AM - 7.00 PM
VENUE:
KARNATAKA CHITRAKALA PARISHATH
(7 Galleries and Lawn area)
Kumara Krupa Road, Near Shivanada Circle, Bengaluru.
FOR DETAILS CONTACT : 8073505441 / 6364685716
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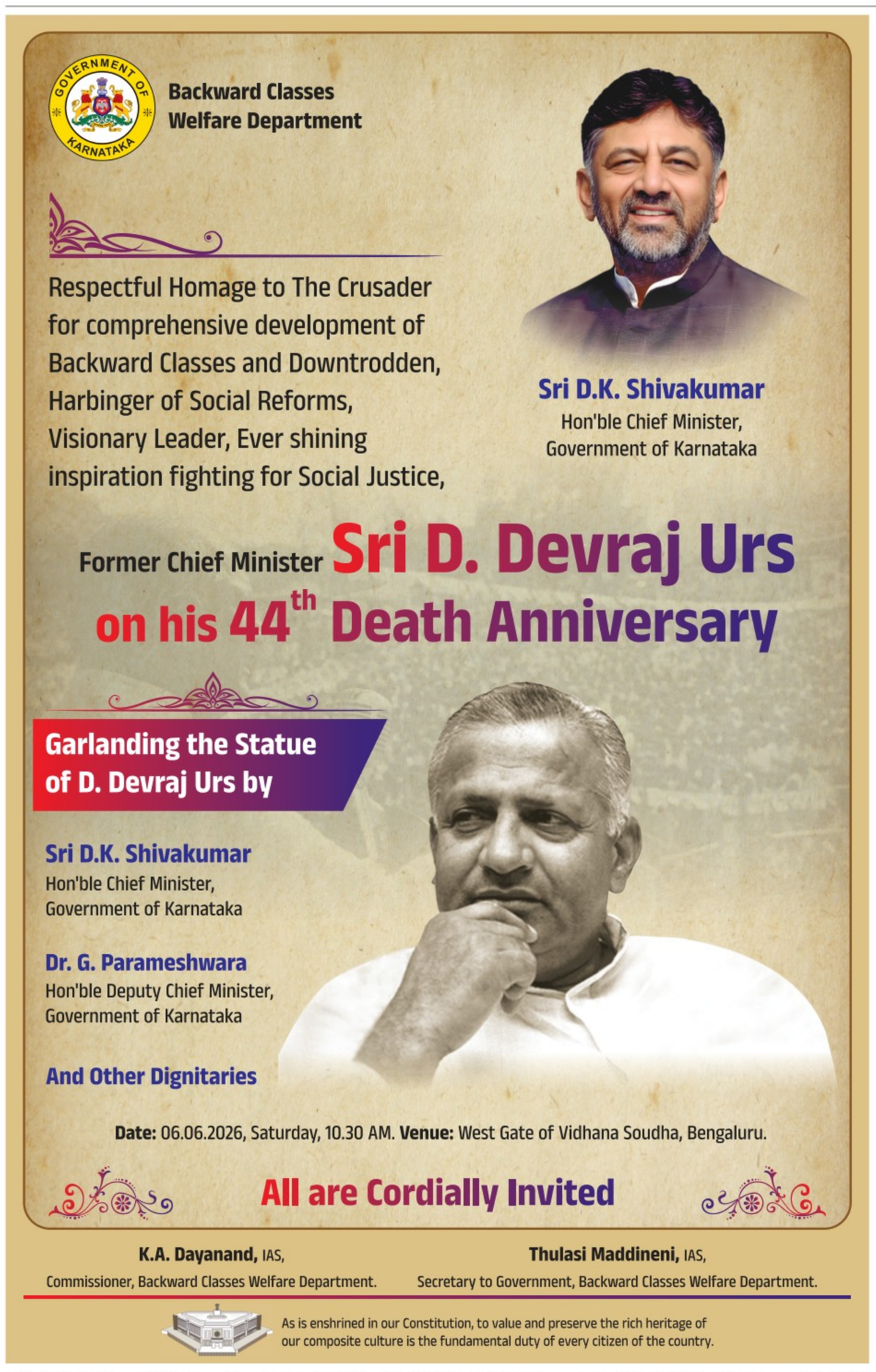
70+ STALLS
50+ CRAFTSMAN
FREE ENTRY


Backward Classes Welfare Department
Respectful Homage to The Crusader for comprehensive development of Backward Classes and Downtrodden, Harbinger of Social Reforms, Visionary Leader, Ever shining inspiration fighting for Social Justice,
Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka
Former Chief Minister Sri D. Devraj Urs
on his 44th Death Anniversary
Garlanding the Statue of D. Devraj Urs by
Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka
Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka
And Other Dignitaries
Date: 06.06.2026, Saturday, 10.30 AM. Venue: West Gate of Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru.
All are Cordially Invited
K.A. Dayanand, IAS, Commissioner, Backward Classes Welfare Department.
Thulasi Maddineni, IAS, Secretary to Government, Backward Classes Welfare Department.
As is enshrined in our Constitution, to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.

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PROPERTYPLUS
HOMES AND REAL ESTATE NEWS

thehindu.com/features/homes-and-gardens
THE HINDU

The rug renaissance

From couture-inspired collections to architect-led collaborations, India's ateliers are turning carpets into collectible design statements

Anisha Menezes

What is the singular element in a living space that instantly lifts it? Most interior stylists pick the rug as a defining décor piece that can centre a room. In fact, the Indian carpet and rug market size is seeing robust growth, set to grow 9.61% year-on-year to touch $1.87 billion in 2031, according to a Modor Intelligence report. It pegs this sturdy upward trajectory on strong domestic demand. India accounts for 40% of global hand-made-carpet exports, revealing a strong affinity for made-in-India products.

One important marker of this surge is the interest and accommodation of fashion and interior designer interventions in creating bespoke rug collections. Interior stylist Ridhi Khosla Jalan says, "A designer rug helps with brand building, and rug makers invest in these collaborations, which generate interest and do well at exhibitions. It's also setting a benchmark in the industry about what you can do with design in this space."

We take a look at three major rug ateliers in India that have successfully integrated designer aesthetics into carpets.

Cross Continental, Jaipur Rugs, Rajasthan

Jaipur Rugs, founded in 1978 by Nand Kishore Chaudhary, showcased its collaboration with Japanese architect Kengo Kuma at Salone del Mobile in Milan in April to rave reviews. The collection seamlessly wove the wabi-sabi aesthetic into hand-tufted wool rugs.

Rutvi Chaudhary, director, explains what designer collaborations bring to the table. "Designers have begun to treat the rug as a canvas for storytelling, drawing influences from architecture, cultural memory, and even urban geometry. On the artisan side, through platforms like Manchaha [where rural weavers design original rugs on the loom using leftover yarn], the convergence of contemporary design and personal expression has pushed the boundaries of rug-making."

The brand has a repertoire that spans 24 artist and designer-led collaborations. Bodour bint Sultan Al Qasimi, an Emirati publisher and public official, has designed the latest 'Whispers of the Desert' collection in hand-knotted wool and bamboo silk, inspired by the ancient landscapes of Mleiha and Faya in Sharjah. She explains the tactile imprint of storytelling: "I travelled to Jaipur on several occasions to work directly with the creative team. I brought the emotional memory and the visual rhythms of our desert, and together we explored how those elements could be translated into contemporary woven art."

For Dutch designer and art director Richard Hutten, his 2025 collection 'Playing with Tradition' offers sustainably crafted carpets, garnering a growing audience among homeowners. "In these times when sustainability is getting more and more important, you see a revival of natural materials such as the wool I've used," he says. Chaudhary says that while in-house designs find their own homes, these designer collaborations open new doors.

Ottoman motifs, Obeetee, Uttar Pradesh

Obeetee was founded in 1920 in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh, by British entrepreneurs F.H. Oakley, F.H. Bowden, and J.A.L. Taylor. Its parent company is now the Kolkata-based Luxmi Group, while the brand is spearheaded by chairman Rudra Chatterjee.

For Angelique Dhama, president of Obeetee, their eight recent design collaborations are a two-way street. "The most important quality in a collaborator is a strong and distinctive design voice, combined with a genuine curiosity about the craft of carpet making," she says. The recent 'Now-stalgia' collection by designer Eeshaan Kashyap and the 'Insectif' collection by designer Varun Rana are case studies in how contemporary aesthetics are moulded by deeply personal inspiration.

Kashyap's collection is a nod to the Ottoman Empire, illustrated in hand-tufted and hand-knotted woollen rugs with a fusion of brass, copper, and steel sculptural surfaces.

For Rana's collection, nostalgia for hand-illustrated Soviet books and a serendipitous spotting of a beetle on a rug in a verdant Mirzapur bungalow were the starting point for a collection that is in equal parts whimsical and restrained.

"Insects are visually fascinating – intricate, delicate, and incredibly diverse," says Rana. "I did some preliminary research, only to discover that surprisingly little had been done with them in this context." The rugs use the insect as a leitmotif to explore placement through traditional Indian patterns. These range from the structured geometry of a Mughal-style *jaali* pattern to the ubiquitous *chatai* and the rhythmic form of a Rajasthani *baoli* (stepwell).

Raffia-inspired, Cocoon Fine Rugs, Mumbai

For the atelier founded in 2009 by Ayush Choudhary, its 13 collaborators include fashion designers J.J. Valaya and Varun Bahl as well as architect and designer Rooshad Shroff and artist Vishaka Jindal, among other design studios. The most recent collection, 'Market' with designer Pinakin Patel, draws its design syntax from the stripes, pattern and movement of the colourful woven raffia market bag.

"Over the years, we have looked for design alignment and a strong narrative lens where every collection must tell a story. So we look for designers who are willing to co-create and not just design because of some demand," states Smriti Choudhary, brand director. "Clients today want meaning and not just material. It also helps us with global positioning because collaborations help Indian craftsmanship speak a global design language."

The freelance writer is based in Chennai.

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Karnataka to consider extending Yellow Line to Attibele

The Karnataka government plans to extend the Namma Metro Yellow Line. It will go beyond Bommasandra towards Attibele.

SOURCE
The Economic Times | Industry

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BG-BGE

Officials welcome free bus travel for students but flag funding issues

It is among the key welfare announcements made by the D.K. Shivakumar-led Congress government on Wednesday

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Newly appointed Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's decision to provide free bus travel to students across the State has been welcomed as a measure that could boost access to education, but transport officials have expressed concerns about its financial impact on the State-run road transport corporations (RTCs), which are already grappling with delayed reimbursements under the Shakti scheme.

Officials from the four RTCs told *The Hindu* that while the move would benefit lakhs of students, particularly those from rural and economically weaker backgrounds, its success would depend on timely reimbursement by the government.

At present, nearly 10 lakh students across Karnataka avail themselves of concessional bus passes issued by the RTCs every year. Out of this, seven lakh students from general category avail themselves of the pass, while three lakh students from SC/ST community avail themselves of student passes which is reimbursed through the Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) programme of the Social Welfare Department. According to the Transport Department officials, these passes generate around ₹70 crore in annual revenue for the corporations. "Girl students are already travelling free under the Shakti scheme. Male students currently use concessional passes issued by the RTCs. If the government reimburses the revenue loss arising from the new scheme, similar to the Shakti model, there should not be any major issue for the corporations," a senior RTC official said. However, the transport corporation sources pointed out that the RTCs are still awaiting substantial dues from the government under the Shakti scheme, which provides free bus travel to women.

Shakti scheme dues pending from the State govt.

(June 2023 to Feb 2026)

RTC's	Year	Beneficiaries	Transportation cost	Released funds	Pending amount
KSRTC, BMTC, KKRTC, NWKRTC	2023-24	183.07 cr.	₹4,380.37 cr.	₹3,199.75 cr.	₹1,180.62 cr.
	2024-25	244.65 cr.	₹6,185.46 cr.	₹5,015.00 cr.	₹1,170.46 cr.
	2025-26	253.16 cr.	₹7,081.68 cr.	₹4,859.00 cr.	₹2,222.68 cr.
Total		680.87 cr.	₹17,647.50 cr.	₹13,073.75 cr.	₹4,573.75 cr.

Source: Transport Department

While the move will benefit lakhs of students, particularly those from rural and economically weaker backgrounds, its success depends on timely reimbursement by the government. K. MURALI KUMAR

According to official data accessed by *The Hindu*, the four RTCs spent ₹17,647.50 crore on operating services under the scheme between June 2023 and February 2026. During the same period, the government released ₹13,073.75 crore towards reimbursements, leaving pending dues of ₹4,573.75 crore.

A source in one of the corporations said that the delay in reimbursements has already put pressure on the finances of the RTCs.

"Operational expenses such as employee salaries, fuel costs, fleet maintenance and procurement of spare parts continue to rise. While the RTCs are committed to implementing welfare schemes, delayed payments affect cash flow and place additional stress on day-to-day operations. If reimbursements are released on time, the free student travel scheme can be implemented smoothly without creating a financial burden on the corporations," the source said.

Transport experts echoed similar concerns, saying that welfare initiatives such as Shakti and free student travel have significant social benefits but should not come at the expense of the financial sustainability of public transport operators.

"Public transport schemes should benefit both passengers and the corporations that deliver the service. Free travel for students is a welcome step that can improve educational outcomes and mobility. However, the government must ensure prompt reimbursement so that RTCs can continue expanding services, modernising fleets and improving connectivity in rural areas," transport expert M.N. Srihari said, adding that a financially healthy the RTC network remains essential for ensuring affordable and reliable transportation across Karnataka.

Manjula takes charge as BWSSB Chairperson, replacing Ram Prasath Manohar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government on Friday issued an order appointing Manjula N. as Chairperson of the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB).

She was previously serving as Secretary of the Department of Electronics, Biotechnology, Science, and Technology.

V. Ram Prasath Manohar, who was serving as the BWSSB chairperson, has been transferred and appointed as Managing Director of the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited, a post he has been holding concurrent charge of for the past few months now. Jagadeesha G., who was serving as the Deputy Commissioner of Bengaluru Urban District, has been transferred and appointed as Commissioner of the Bengaluru City Central Corporation.

Kantharaju P.S. has been appointed as the Deputy Commissioner of Bengaluru Urban District.

KERC releases draft regulations mandating installation of batteries for DSPV plants above 10 kW capacity

The proposed regulations will eventually replace the existing Rooftop Solar Regulations of 2016. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) has released the Draft Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grid Interactive Distributed Solar Photovoltaic (DSPV) Plants) Regulations, 2026, which mandates installation of batteries for DSPV plants above 10 kW capacity and allow installation of solar panels on building facades and group metering. The regulations will eventually replace the existing Rooftop Solar Regulations of 2016.

Consumers installing DSPV systems above 10 kW capacity under specified metering arrangements will be required to install hybrid inverters and battery energy storage systems with minimum storage capacity equivalent to 20% of the plant's generation potential, as per the draft regulation. "When batteries are installed, they store the excess power trapped. Usually fewer people stay at home in the afternoons hence the consumption of energy is low. Once they return from home in the evening, they can use power from batteries instead of drawing from the grid. This will help to enhance grid reliability," said P. Ravikumar, Chairman, KERC.

"Besides, we have allowed people to take up Group Net Metering and Virtual Net Metering formally. This will enable multiple consumers to share the benefits of a common solar installation. This is expected to facilitate wider adoption of solar energy, particularly in apartment complexes, group housing societies and institutional campuses," he added.

The regulations further allow installation of solar systems on building facades and elevated structures on consumer premises, sources said.

KPTCL upgrades transformers with natural ester oil

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) has initiated the transition from conventional mineral oil to environment-friendly, biodegradable natural ester oil in its high-voltage transformer network.

The move is aimed at enhancing grid safety, reducing environmental risks, and extending the operational life of critical transmission assets, the KPTCL said.

Ageing transformers

"Upgrading transformers that are more than 15 years old with natural ester oil allows us to extend the life of critical grid assets at a fraction of the replacement cost. As part of its modernisation strategy, the utility has already replaced conventional mineral oil with natural ester oil in 45 high-capacity transformers. Rather than incurring substantial capital expenditure on replacing ageing transformers, the KPTCL has adopted a cost-effective approach," V. Ram Prasath Manohar, Managing Director, KPTCL, said.

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E-TENDER NOTICE NO.-CPC-34/2026-27

Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL), Bhubaneswar, invites bids under single stage two part system from any bidder for Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 2x100 MVA, 220/33kV GIS at Pahala along with 220kV T/L (Total Line Length=9.94 RKms approximately) from existing 220/132/33kV GIS at Balianta and const. of 02 nos. of Bay extension at Balianta GIS on Turnkey contract basis in e tendering mode only. The estimate of the tender amounts **Rs. 256,28,80,125/-**.The last date & time of Submission of Bid Dt. 03.07.2026 up to 12:45 PM. The interested bidders may visit OPTCL's official website **http://www.optcl.co.in and www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL** for detail specification.

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No: BU/E-Gov/Tenders-ADV-01/2026-27 Date: 03.06.2026

E-Tender Notification

Bangalore University invites bids for the following tenders through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. Details of the tenders are available at e-procurement platform **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Bids are to be submitted electronically at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Bidders are requested to adhere to the time schedule prescribed in the tender.

Sl No.	Description of the Tender
1	Supply and Installation of High Temperature Muffle Furnace with all necessary components to the Department of Physics under VGST project
2	Supply and Installation of Inverted Microscope to the Department of Microbiology & Biotechnology under VGST project
3	Supply and Installation of Blotting unit with power supply to the Department of Microbiology & Biotechnology under VGST project
4	e-auction for investment of surplus funds in fixed deposit - callable

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Letter No.2610 Date: 04/06/2026

1st Corrigendum

In continuation to this office order **No.2572, Dated.03.06.2026** and **Bid Identification No.CCERWCSBD-Online-19/2026-27** invited vide this office Notice **No.2301, Dtd.15.05.2026**, the partial modification of NCB has been made as follows :

1. Availability of Tender online for bidding Extended up to **Dtd.24.06.2026 at 5.00 PM**
2. Last Date and Time of seeking tender clarification **Dtd.23.06.2026 up to 2.00 PM**
3. Date & Time of opening of tender (Technical Bid) on **Dtd.25.06.2026 at 11.00 AM**.
4. Date & Time of opening of tender (Price Bid) Will be intimated later

All other terms and conditions will remain unaltered.

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BJP urges CM to seek fresh mandate

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stating that the Congress government led by new Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar was gripped by dissidence, with Minister Ramalinga Reddy resigning within two days of being sworn in, the BJP has urged the Chief Minister to dissolve the Assembly and seek a fresh mandate.

Speaking to presspersons in Bengaluru on Friday, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra said it was better to seek a fresh mandate instead of running a "rickety dispensation."

Pointing out that Mr. Shivakumar has announced that elections to urban and rural local bodies, besides for corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), will be held in four to five months, he suggested that elections to the Assembly too should be held along with them.

He said, "The new Chief Minister has not begun his innings well. Mr. Reddy has resigned after expressing his displeasure in public. Two more senior Ministers, including K.H. Muniyappa, too are not happy. Former Minister H.K. Patil has said this is a warning bell to the new government. This is a telling comment on the state of affairs of the new government."

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok accused Mr. Shivakumar of breaking promises made to his party colleagues.

I am unhappy and cannot go against my conscience: Reddy

Eight-time Bengaluru MLA points to a promise by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to give him the Bengaluru Development portfolio; he adds he will remain in the Congress and work as a legislator

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Water Resources Minister Ramalinga Reddy with Congress leaders in Bengaluru on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

After being denied the Bengaluru Development portfolio, senior Congress legislator from Bengaluru Ramalinga Reddy, who has been allocated Water Resources, sent his resignation letter to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

On Friday, in a dramatic turn of events, he signed the resignation letter in the presence of the media and displayed it. Stating that he will not personally submit his resignation that has been addressed to the Chief Minister, Mr. Reddy said he would send it through an official.

"I am unhappy and cannot go against my conscience. Hence, I am resigning. I will remain in the Congress and work as a legislator," he said, pointing out a promise made by Mr. Shivakumar to give him the Bengaluru Development portfolio.

Brewing discontent

Discontent was brewing since Wednesday night as speculation was rife that the Bengaluru Development portfolio would go to Krishna Byre Gowda, and Mr. Reddy had also met the Chief Minister on Thursday. His resignation seems to have come after he was told that the decision on portfolios came from the Central leadership that could not be changed.

The eight-time legislator, who is known to wield a significant influence on voters in East and North Bengaluru, is being seen as an important figure ahead of the elections to corporations in the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) region.

Mr. Reddy told presspersons, "I had not lobbied for a ministerial berth with Mr. Shivakumar, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah or the high command. Mr. Shivakumar had promised to give me Bengaluru Development. I had not asked for it. The portfolio has been denied to me twice."

Mr. Reddy served as Transport Minister in the Siddaramaiah-led government in this term.

Over the decades, he has worked in governments headed by M. Veerappa Moily, S.M. Krishna, N. Dharam Singh, and Mr. Siddaramaiah.

Supporters of Mr. Reddy staged protests in BTM Layout, his constituency, expressing solidarity with the leader.

'This is humiliation'

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Reddy said, "This is humiliation. I have served as a corporator in Bengaluru and have been elected MLA continuously. I was promised the Bengaluru Development portfolio earlier. How long can I tolerate this? What other option did I have?"

He said he did not want to blame anyone, but a promise should have been kept.

"I harbour no anger against Mr. Shivakumar, Mr. Siddaramaiah or the party high command led by Mallikarjun Kharge," he added.

Wake-up call, says Patil

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil, who was not inducted into the Cabinet, said on X that the resignation of Ramalinga Reddy was a "wake-up call.'

He wrote, "I request my friend Ramalinga Reddy again to reconsider his stand in the larger interest of the party. His resignation is a massive wake up call. I urge the relevant leaders to bestow their serious attention to resolve this matter justly."

Party's decision on portfolio cannot be changed, says DKS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stating that the decision on allocating the Bengaluru Development portfolio to Krishna Byre Gowda had been taken by the party central leadership, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday also acknowledged that he had indeed promised Ramalinga Reddy that the portfolio would be given to him.

The Chief Minister also said that whatever decision had been made, cannot be changed by setting aside decisions of party seniors.

Reacting to the resignation of Mr. Reddy, after being denied the Bengaluru Development portfolio, he told reporters, "It is true that I had earlier told Mr. Reddy that I would give him the portfolio. He is a senior Minister. When Mr. Reddy was allocated the Transport portfolio earlier, my brother (D.K. Suresh) and I had persuaded him to accept it. At that time, the Muzrai portfolio, which was with Sudhakar, was given to him."

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar in Bengaluru on Friday. PTI

Mr. Shivakumar further said, "I have made my efforts. The party seniors have now taken a decision to give the portfolio to Mr. Gowda. I will speak to him about this."

On the displeasure expressed by K.H. Muniyappa on being allocated Food and Civil Supplies instead of Social Welfare that he had sought, the Chief Minister said, "After discussion with (Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha) Rahul Gandhi, the party has persuaded him. Mr. Gandhi spoke to Mr. Muniyappa after which he has happily informed that he would accept whatever the party gives him."

Allocate portfolios 'useful to society' to seniors: Muniyappa

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Refusing to take charge of the Food and Civil Supplies Department, Dalit (Left) leader K.H. Muniyappa has said that the party should have allocated "portfolio that are useful for society" to seniors like him.

"The party should correct itself. Seniority has not been respected in the Cabinet. I had asked for either the Social Welfare or the Agriculture portfolio. Till the mistake is rectified, I will not take charge of the department," Mr. Muniyappa told presspersons at Devanahalli, near here, on Friday.

Sources close to him said that Mr. Muniyappa is adamant about getting the Social Welfare Department. "With internal reservation among Scheduled Castes just being implemented after a long fight and legal wrangles, he wants to ensure that the benefit reaches the Dalit (Left) community, which is suspicious of intervention by the Dalit (Right) community. There are talks of giving the crucial department to a Dalit (Right) legislator," sources said.

Stating that he would not resign because he "treated Congress like mother", Mr. Muniyappa said, "I have been a loyal party soldier for the past 50 years. Seniority should be maintained in allocation of portfolios.."

Meanwhile, he has brought his disappointment to the notice of Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, D.K. Shivakumar, and Siddaramaiah.

Council polls: Congress announces fifth candidate

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Congress on Friday approved the candidature of Vinay Karthik as the fifth party candidate for the ensuing biennial elections to the Legislative Council of Karnataka, to be elected by the MLAs.

He is the serving treasurer of KPCC, and the grandson of the late Congress leader Sahukar Chennaiah.

The elections are scheduled for June 18.

While the Congress is assured of winning four seats and the BJP two seats in the Council given the numbers, one seat is expected to be keenly fought as neither has the required strength to ensure the victory of their candidates.

Kharge files nomination papers for Rajya Sabha polls

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Team support: While filing his nomination papers, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge was accompanied by party leaders D.K. Shivakumar, Rahul Gandhi, Siddaramaiah, K.C. Venugopal, and B.K. Hariprasad, in Bengaluru on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

All India Congress Committee president Mallikarjun Kharge has filed his nomination papers for elections to the Rajya Sabha from Karnataka in the presence of Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi.

Mr. Kharge is seeking re-election to the Rajya Sabha. June 8 is the last day for filing nomination papers. Mansoor Ali Khan, son of former Union Minister K. Rahman Khan, and the party's media and publicity wing head, Pawan Khera, are the other two candidates of the party.

The polls will be held on June 18 for four seats from the electoral college comprising MLAs, and the Congress has numbers in the Assembly to secure three seats.

Mr. Kharge, along with Mr. Gandhi, arrived at the Vidhana Soudha and submitted their nomination papers to the Legislative Assembly Secretary M.K. Vishalakshi. Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president B.K. Hariprasad accompanied Mr. Kharge and the two party candidates.

Portfolio discussion

Mr. Shivakumar and Mr. Hariprasad travelled in the same car as Mr. Gandhi and reportedly held discussions related to disgruntlement among Ministers over allocation of portfolios.

Eight-time MLA Ramalinga Reddy resigned from the Cabinet following allocation of the Water Resources portfolio and claimed Mr. Shivakumar promised him the Bengaluru Development portfolio, but it was eventually allocated to Krishna Byre Gowda.

K.H. Muniyappa too was not happy about being allotted the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs portfolio.

Cong. chief's assets double in six years

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The assets of All India Congress Committee president Mallikarjun Kharge has nearly doubled in six years.

While the veteran leader had declared a total assets of ₹20.12 crore during the 2020 Rajya Sabha elections, the assets have appreciated by 92% to ₹38.65 crore as per the affidavit he filed on Friday.

His total assets include ₹9.58 crore coming from Hindu Undivided Family (HUF).

The affidavit filed, along with his nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha, shows that the assets in Mr. Kharge's name total ₹14.81 crore, of which movable assets are ₹6.51 crore and immovable assets ₹8.3 crore. His spouse Radha Bai Kharge has total assets of ₹14.26 crore, including ₹4.41 crore in movable assets and ₹9.85 crore in immovable assets.

CET results today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) will announce the results of the Common Entrance Test (CET-2026) on June 6.

The public can get the results through the following links after 2 p.m.: https://keaonline.karnataka.gov.in/ugcet_2026_results/ and https://keaonline.karnataka.gov.in/ugcet_2026_result/ https://cetonline.karnataka.gov.in/kea/

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/10/2026-27 Date:05.06.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK KPP Portal only) (Call-03)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the works mention in the below table.

Sl. No.	Package Name	Amount put to Tender(Rs. in crores Including GST)	EMD (Amount in Rs.)	Contract Completion Period (Including Monsoon Period)
1	Construction of MRF sheds at **Dodda bidarakallu (Package –P1).**	**20.90**	**20,90,000/-**	09 Months
2	Construction of MRF shed at **Subba rayanapalya. (Package –P2).**	**13.69**	**15,00,000/-**	09 Months
3	Construction of MRF sheds at **Tara hunase (Package –P3)**	**48.00**	**48,00,000/-**	09 Months

1) Last date for uploading Pre-bid Queries : **14.06.2026 before 16.00 hrs. 2)** Tender Pre-Bid meeting : **15.06.2026 at 15:00 hrs**. at above mentioned office. **3)** Last Date of Receipt of Tender: **19.06.2026 upto 16:00 hrs. 4)** Opening of Technical Bid: **20.06.2026 at 16:30 hrs.**
More details can be downloaded from website - **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/JA/1013/2026-27 Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-DPR-01/681/2026-27 Date: 05.06.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB invites tenders from reputed consultants/firms under two cover bid system having an office at Bengaluru with vast experience and proven record of similar nature of work for project mentioned below:-
Name of the works : Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) Including Economic Analysis, Surveying, Layout Plan, Design, Preparation of Estimates, Cost Structure etc., for the proposed Dobaspete Industrial Area Phase-8 at Nelamangala Taluk Bengaluru Rural District. (Extent 486A-27½ G).
The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **08.07.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/1009/Zen/2026-27 Engineer in Chief, KIADB, Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the General Public that my clients **Sri. R. Adhikesavulu Naidu and Smt. Uma Naidu R** have negotiated with **Mr. Papaiah Reddy** S/o. late Chikkathimmaiah and **Sri. R. Anilkumar** S/o. Sri.M.Ramaswamy Reddy, both residents of Hongasandra, Bangalore for purchase of the lands described in the schedule here below, on their representation that they are the absolute owners of the same.
Any person/s having any claim, right, title or interest of whatsoever manner with regard to the Schedule Property or anybody opposing the sale transaction may lodge such claim or objection, in writing with documentary proof to the undersigned within **15 days** from the date of this Notice, failing which my client would proceed to complete the sale transaction, presuming that there are no valid claims or objections.

SCHEDULE

Item No.1 : All that piece and parcel of the lands measuring **30 Guntas** out of 34 Guntas (4 Guntas Karab) in Sy.No.397/1 and measuring 2 Acre out of 2 Acre 01 Gutas (1 Gunta Karab) in **Sy.No.397/3** of Achalu Village, Satanur Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and bounded on the; East by : Land in Sy.No.396/3; West by : Government Land; North by : Land of V. Manjunath and South by : Land of K. Ananthaiah.
Item No.2: All that piece and parcel of the lands measuring 2 Acre out of 2 Acre 10 Guntas (10 Guntas Karab) in Sy.No.396/3 (old Sy.No.396) of Achalu Village, Satanur Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and bounded on the; East by : BWSSB Road; West by : Lands in Sy.No.397/1 & 397/3; North by : Land of V. Manjunath and South by : Land of K. Ananthaiah.

NARASIMHAMURTHY A S, Advocate, No.56/A, 3rdCross, 24thMain, J. P Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-78, Ph: 9886434287
Date: 06.06.2026
Bangalore

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE
BIRTH CENTENARY

100 Happy Birthday MOM

DoB : 06.06.1926 - DoD : 10.05.2022
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W/o R.S. Thiagarajan
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Your sacrifices make you the amazing mom ...
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R.S.T. Family, Mullaikudi, Tirukkattuppalli.

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Annamalai floats new 'political movement', to fight next T.N. polls

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

K. Annamalai

Former Tamil Nadu BJP chief K. Annamalai, who quit the party earlier this week, on Friday announced the launch of a "political movement", inspired by the ideals promoted by former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

A few hours before his announcement, the BJP said its national president Nitin Nabin had accepted Mr. Annamalai's resignation from the primary membership of the BJP.

Sharing his idea of the new political movement on social media platforms, Mr. Annamalai said it would eventually become a political party. All its functionaries would be trained at Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Centre for Ethics and Politics in Coimbatore before they face any election, he said.

Resignations follow

After Mr. Annamalai's announcement, several BJP functionaries, including State unit vice-president Karu. Nagarajan, resigned from the party, and said they would join him. Many BJP functionaries took to the social media expressing their support for the new movement.

Mr. Annamalai said there were several "issues" in the BJP, which were flagged to the national leadership "patiently" over several months before his resignation. Though he conveyed his decision to part ways with the BJP on December 4 last year, he said he accepted the party's request and stayed on until the completion of the Tamil Nadu Assembly election in May 2026.

The former IPS officer said he continued to respect Prime Minister Narendra Modi but chose to disagree with him on certain issues with courage. He chose to meet BJP leader and Union Minister Amit Shah to convey his decision "eye to eye". He maintained that he had "no animosity against the BJP".

Even as he sought time from his supporters for his movement to evolve into a political party, he said there is "no doubt that it will face the next general election" in Tamil Nadu. He said the new initiative would accommodate the views of Gen Z, Gen Alpha as well as the elderly.

Mr. Annamalai said there was indeed space for a new party in Tamil Nadu. "We will have to come out of cult politics. This will be common man's politics, there will be no compromise on principles," he said. He stressed the need for a "term limit" for elected representatives. "There cannot be permanent MPs, MLAs, or Ministers."

Telecom firms bear civil liability for financial loss in SIM swap frauds: High Court

BSNL directed to pay ₹55 lakh as compensation to cooperative bank which had lost ₹50 lakh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a verdict with far-reaching consequences for telecom service providers (TSPs), the High Court of Karnataka has held that the TSPs bear civil liability for financial losses caused by SIM swap frauds enabled directly by their negligence, while terming the TSPs "custodians" whose role is equivalent to a "vault keeper in a traditional banking system".

"Just as a vault keeper who carelessly or dishonestly gives access to unauthorised persons bears responsibility for the resulting theft, a telecom service provider that carelessly or dishonestly issues a duplicate SIM bears responsibility for the financial fraud that the duplicate SIM enables," the court observed.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj made these observations in a case where Basaveshwara Pattana Sahakara Bank Niyamitha (BPSBN), a cooperative bank of Shiralkoppa in Shivamogga district, had lost ₹50.5 lakh from its current account maintained in a public sector bank, after a BSNL official issued a duplicate SIM for the mobile number of BPSBN without its express and verified consent.

The court, while dismissing BSNL's petition challenging the decision of the Lok Adalat which had asked it to pay a compensation of ₹5 lakh to BPSBN, has enhanced the compensation to ₹55 lakh, holding that BSNL owed a clear and non-negotiable duty of care to BPSBN, as its subscriber, to ensure that no duplicate SIM card was issued without BPSBN's express and verified consent.

OTP authentication

Referring to India's rapidly deepening digital economy and the UPI ecosystem, which handles over a thousand crore transactions monthly, the court said digital transactions have a single critical dependency: the mobile number registered for OTP authentication. "If this dependency fails, as it does in a SIM swap fraud, the entire security architecture is bypassed instantly," the court observed.

The court further stated that "the verification of subscriber identity before issuing a duplicate or replacement SIM card is not a bureaucratic formality. It is a critical security measure upon which the financial safety of millions of bank account holders depends. Every telecom service provider must treat every request for a duplicate SIM card with the gravity it deserves."

13 Karnataka Ministers face criminal cases

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Of the 14 Ministers in the reconstituted Karnataka State Cabinet, 13 are crorepatis with their average assets around ₹206.15 crore, according to an analysis by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

A crorepati is one who has total assets worth at least ₹1 crore.

The Karnataka State Cabinet was reconstituted on Wednesday. The ADR and the Karnataka Election Watch - both NGOs - have analysed the self-sworn affidavits of 13 of the 14 Ministers.

The records of one Minister, Kelachandra Joseph George, from the Sarvagnanagar constituency was not analysed due to the unavailability of clear and complete affidavits on the Election Commission's website.

According to the report, all 13 (100%) Ministers have declared criminal cases against themselves. Three Ministers (23% of the Cabinet) have declared serious criminal cases against themselves.

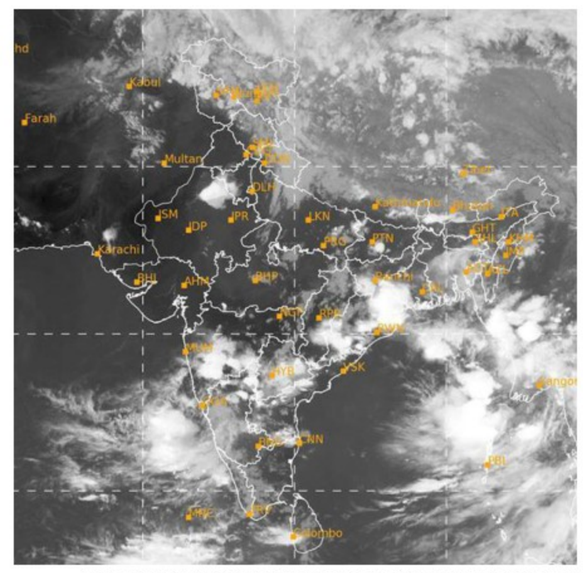
CM tops assets' list

The Minister with the highest declared total assets was Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar from the Kanakapura constituency with assets worth ₹1,413.80 crore, while U.T. Khader Fareed from the Mangalore constituency had the lowest declared total assets of ₹6.97 crore. All 13 (100%) Ministers have declared liabilities, with Mr. Shivakumar topping the list with liabilities of ₹265.06 crore.

Three (23%) Ministers have declared their educational qualification to be between 10th and 12th standard, while 10 (77%) Ministers have declared an educational qualification of graduation or above.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Telangana, Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	4	29.0	26.0	Kurnool	—	38.2	27.7
Ahmedabad	—	41.3	29.5	Lucknow	—	38.1	27.0
Aizawl	—	29.4	21.8	Madurai	—	38.5	26.3
Bengaluru	—	29.5	21.5	Mangaluru	18	27.1	24.3
Bhopal	21	35.2	20.2	Mumbai	—	35.0	29.4
Bhubaneswar	—	41.1	28.0	Mysuru	—	29.4	21.2
Chandigarh	8.3	36.5	20.5	New Delhi	2	35.8	26.0
Chennai	—	41.4	30.6	Patna	—	38.9	30.1
Coimbatore	—	32.4	23.6	Port Blair	87	28.5	24.4
Dehradun	7.4	29.9	21.8	Prayagraj	—	41.8	27.0
Gangtok	45	23.1	16.9	Puducherry	—	40.0	29.1
Goa	2	31.6	25.2	Pune	—	37.6	25.5
Guwahati	34	32.4	23.6	Raipur	—	41.2	29.8
Hubballi	—	29.0	23.0	Ranchi	—	36.2	24.0
Hyderabad	—	36.6	27.0	Shillong	—	22.0	18.0
Imphal	—	32.3	20.5	Shimla	33	23.8	14.4
Jaipur	35	34.0	21.8	Srinagar	2	27.1	14.5
Kochi	55	28.4	24.8	Thiruvananthapuram	20	31.6	25.2
Kohima	—	26.0	18.0	Tiruchirappalli	—	37.5	27.4
Kolkata	60	32.4	22.7	Vijayawada	7	41.4	24.0
Kozhikode	74	26.5	25.0	Visakhapatnam	—	35.5	30.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.64	..40	40	 66	90	.....
Bengaluru	.17	253	30	 30	55	.....
Chennai	...5	..14	51	 40	52	.....
Delhi	.34	..50	40	... 104	...236	.....
Hyderabad	.20	..15	38	 86	87	.....
Kolkata	.13	..51	30	 71	95	.....
Lucknow	.13	..23	46	 80	90	.....
Mumbai	.13	102	25	 24	52	.....
Pune	.23	..19	40	 25	39	.....
Visakhapatnam	.24	..57	16	 63	...147	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Faridabad, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 198 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Ambernath, Maharashtra recorded a healthy AQI score of 24

Air Quality Code: Poor · Moderate · Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR.
I.F.T.No:EE/PWD/VJP/PB/CMIDP-SCP-3054/2026-27/687
Dated:04.06.2026
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement)

The- **Executive Engineer, Public Works Dept. Division, Vijayapur** Invites tenders from eligible tenderers (registered in Public Works Department) Total 5 works, As per standard bid documents KW- 4 with Difference head of account costing of maximum and minimum amount for Rs.250.00 Lakhsand RS. 76.00lakhş the EMD amount of maximum and minimum Rs.3,75,000/-and RS.76,000/- for the works. For above work G.S.T amount will be paid to the Contractor separately and Increase in G.S.T shall not be paid in the extended period of Contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time. The calendar events of tenders, dates are fixed as follows (1) Pre-Bid Meeting for Contractors Date- 10.06.2026 upto 11.00 AM (2) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders Date.15.06.2026 upto 4.30 PM. (3) Opening of Technical Bid Date-16.06.2026 at 4.31 PM. (4) Opening of Financial Bid Date-17.06.2026 at 4.31 PM onwords. Clause-4 Conditions of Standard Bid Document may be seen in Departmental Website i.e "https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in" and for more information may contact help desk Bangalore (Phone No.91 80 46010000, +91 80 68948777) or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Vijayapur
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/131/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಪಿ/2026–27

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, 1st Floor,
BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052
No.DGM-1/BSWML/PMC/Tend/02/2026-27 Date:05.06.2026
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible tenderers for the Project management consultancy services for the work mentioned in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for services through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz.https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified is as per standard bid document. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Project Cost (in Rs.)	EMD (Amount in Rs)	Duration (Including Monsoon)
1	Appointment of PMC for the work of Providing Scientific closure at Landfill site of Bayyappanahalli Sy.No.80 & Bagaluru Sy.No.271 and control of Fly Menace using spraying of enzymes and development of surrounding villages by creating required infrastructure in Byatarayanpura Constituency.	68,44,633/-	1,36,893/-	11 Months

Calendar of Events: 1) Last date to upload pre-bid queries in KPP portal: **12.06.2026** before **17:30 Hrs.** 2) Tender Pre Bid meeting: **15.06.2026** at **15:00 hrs** at above mentioned office. 3) Last Date of Receipt of Tender **24.06.2026** before **16:00 hrs** 4) Opening of Technical Bid: **25.06.2026** after **16:30 Hrs**.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager -1
BSWML, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/1014/CCL/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Lokaseva Bhavan, Sachivalaya Marg, Bhubaneswar-751001
Phone: 0674-2954600 | Website: https://dhe.odisha.gov.in | Mail: rusa.odisha@gmail.com
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Higher Education Department, invites sealed tenders from eligible bidders for the following work :

The complete set of bidding documents and other details are available at **https://dhe.odisha.gov.in.**

EMD ₹ 10,00,000/-

Last date for submission of bids: **25.06.2026**
Opening of technical bids: **29.06.2026 at 03:30 PM**

Sr. No.	Name of the Work	Tender No.	Tender Fee
1.	Supply, Installation, and Establishment of 32 AI-Enabled Smart classrooms in 16 Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) under the GSC component of PM-USHA	PM-USHA : 01 / 2026	₹ 10,000/-

Bids must be sent through Speed/Registered Post addressed to :
Joint Secretary-cum-SNO (RUSA/PM-USHA), Higher Education Dept., Lokaseva Bhavan, Ground Floor, Sachivalaya Marg, Bhubaneswar - 751001.

Sd/- Joint Secretary-cum-SNO (PM-USHA)
11001/108/2627 OIPR-11001/11001/1/26-27/0011

Government of Odisha
Higher Education Department
Inviting Applications for Government of Odisha Sponsored Free UPSC Civil Services Residential Coaching Programme for the Session 2026-27

Government in the Higher Education Department is providing free UPSC Civil Services Residential Coaching to 200 aspirants who are domiciles of Odisha.

1. It will be a residential coaching i.e. food and accommodation will be provided by Government to the selected candidates.
2. There will be a pre-qualifying entrance examination **for shortlisting 200 candidates and the date of examination is 28th June, 2026**.
3. Coaching will be provided for 11 months for Prelims and Mains examination (General Studies and Optional paper) as per the syllabus of UPSC.
4. The detailed guideline in this regard is available in Higher Education Department website **www.dhe.odisha.gov.in** as well as in SAMS portal (**www.samsodisha.gov.in**)

- Interested candidates, having the eligibility as mentioned in the guideline, may apply in SAMS portal of Higher Education Department for submission of application.
- Application Fee: Rs.100/- is to be deposited through online mode at the time of submission of application.

Sl. No.	Description	Timeline
1)	Availability of Common Application Form (CAF) & Advertisement in the SAMS website	08.06.2026 (11.00 A.M.) (Monday)
2)	Last date & Time of applying online CAF	19.06.2026 (11.45 P.M.) (Friday)
3)	Editing of the Common Application Form (CAF) if required	20.06.2026 (11.00 A.M. to 11.45 P.M.) (Saturday)
4)	Availability of Admit card in HIMS portal (https://hims.odisha.gov.in/landing) along with in SAMS Portal	24.06.2026 (Wednesday)
5)	Date of Examination	28.06.2026 (Sunday)
6)	Publication of Provisional Answer Key in HIMS/SAMS Portal	29.06.2026 (Monday)
7)	Receiving of objections to the Provisional Answer Keys by the candidates on their student's login on SAMS portal	02.07.2026 (Thursday) & 03.07.2026 (Friday)
8)	Publication of Revised-Answer Key (HIMS/SAMS Portal)	08.07.2026 (Wednesday)
9)	Publication of Selection list	Dates will be notified by Higher Education Department Later
10)	Document Verification and admission	
11)	Commencement of Coaching Classes	

For more details please contact :
Helpdesk@0674-2954600, e-mail: civilservicesscheme2025@gmail.com
11001/106/2627 OIPR-11001/11001/1/26-27/0010

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No:EEE/Projects/400kV/SSCD/AEE-3/AE-1/26-27/284 Date:03.06.2026
PUBLIC CAUTION NOTICE

This is to inform public that, KPTCL has the Single circuit of 220kV Single Core, 1200 Sqmm XLPE Copper UG Cable for a route length of 11.08 km from 220/66 kV SRS Peenya, KPTCL, Bengaluru to 220/66 kv 'A' station, KPTCL, Anand rao circle, Bengaluru. The said UG cable will be energized **on or after 05.06.2026.**

CABLE ROUTE: 220/66 kV SRS Peenya, KPTCL, Lakshmidevinagar, Marappanapalya, Outer Ring Road, Kanteerava Studio Main Road, Mahalakshmipura, Nagapura, Rajajinagar, Prakashnagar, Subramanyanagar, Gayathrinagar, Railway Parallel Road, Gandhinagar, Nagappa Road, Loop Road, Vasanthnagar, Nehru Circle, Yadav College Road and Anand Rao Circle.

General Public / GBA / Government Institutions / GAIL / BWSSB / BDA / BMRCL / South Western Railways / BSNL / Private Companies shall not carry out any excavation / drilling / trenching / piling / road cutting on the said cable route. Despite this notification, excavating the cable routed area resulting in any mishap, they themselves will be responsible for such acts and deeds and KPTCL will in no way be responsible for the consequences. The damage caused to the KPTCL assets will be recovered by the person/ agency.

Sd/-Executive Engineer (Ele),
Projects- 400kV SSC Division, KPTCL,
Veterinary College Campus, Hebbal, Bengaluru.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, FAISAL AHMED SHARIEFF S/O AMJAD SHARIFF , Aged about 32 years, Residing at No.22, 1st Cross, NP Factory Road, Kaval Byrasandra, Bengaluru 560032, have changed my name to FAISAL AHMED SHARIFF vide affidavit dated 03/06/2025, Sworn Before Notary Meer Hassan, Bengaluru.

SITUATION VACANT

GENERAL

WANTED: HOUSEKEEPER Full-Time. (Male/Female) Trustworthy & energetic individual for daily chores (cleaning, organizing, maintenance). Full boarding + excellent salary & job security. Refs Required. Wanted: Brahmin Cook Full-Time, (Male/Female). Must be clean, hygienic & passionate about veg cooking (South Indian + North Indian expertise preferred). Premium independent accommodation + excellent salary. Ref required. Apply via email and passport size pic. Contact: travel.companionship.2026@gmail.com

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

ANTHRO
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▸ PYQs Analysis ▸ Full Support Till Success
Recordings Available for Online Students
IAS 2025

Harsh Nehera AIR 74 303/500

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Loyal Opposition

West Bengal is in the grip of a toxic political culture

The rout in the West Bengal Assembly election has thrown the Trinamool Congress (TMC) into a tailspin. TMC rebel Ritabrata Banerjee has been formally recognised as Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Legislative Assembly after claiming the support of 58 of the 80 MLAs of the party. Abhishek Banerjee, the party's national general secretary and nephew of Mamata Banerjee, had written to the Speaker naming veteran Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay as LoP. Ritabrata Banerjee challenged that decision, with some encouragement and support from the ruling BJP. The TMC had earlier expelled Ritabrata Banerjee and Sandipan Saha, both TMC MLAs, accusing them of anti-party activities after they complained to the Speaker that their signatures on Abhishek Banerjee's letter had been forged. Assembly officials found discrepancies between signatures on the submitted documents and those recorded during the oath-taking of newly elected MLAs, and the government has ordered a CID investigation. Ritabrata Banerjee framed his elevation as LoP as a "collective fight against individualism", pointedly declaring that the resistance was directed at Abhishek Banerjee and pledging loyalty to Mamata Banerjee – at least for public consumption. TMC functionaries are quitting the party in large numbers, even as its workers and leaders, including Abhishek Banerjee, continue to face physical violence.

Having been in power for three consecutive terms, the TMC's collapse has long been in the making, thanks to corruption, authoritarian governance, suppression of dissent, and violence against women. While all this had steadily eroded public confidence in both the administration and the party, the expanding role of Abhishek Banerjee alienated a generation of senior leaders who had built the party from the ground up. Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari – the BJP's first in the State – was once among Mamata Banerjee's most trusted lieutenants. He resented the rise of the nephew, and was also vulnerable to pressure from central agencies that were investigating serious corruption cases against him. The TMC had no qualms about using state resources, local administrations, and police machinery for its power, but it could not withstand the BJP which is willing to stretch the rules of the game even further. In the TMC versus TMC fight, there will be protracted legal tussles over the status of the two groups that claim to be the legitimate TMC. This episode also highlights West Bengal's decades-long toxic political culture, marked by violence and opportunism. The new LoP was earlier a Marxist leader who defected to the TMC. The BJP has openly stated that several newly elected TMC MLAs wanted to join the party. They seem, instead, to have captured the TMC in the Assembly – a rather curious case of political consensus.

Incomplete truce

Israel has to pull back troops from Lebanon for peace to take hold

The new ceasefire agreement between Israel and Lebanon could help remove a major obstacle to U.S. President Donald Trump's efforts to secure a preliminary agreement with Iran to end the war. Last week, Iran suspended talks with the U.S. in protest against Israel's escalating war in Lebanon. In April, when Mr. Trump announced an Israel-Lebanon ceasefire, he had said that Israel was "prevented" from attacking the country any longer. But Tel Aviv continued air strikes and expanded ground operations in southern Lebanon. Iran has maintained that in its April 8 ceasefire with the U.S., Washington had promised that the ceasefire would come into force on all fronts, including Lebanon. Now, after Iran paused talks with the U.S., Mr. Trump swung into action. He claimed that he had talked Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu out of his plans to bomb Beirut and had a conversation with Hezbollah's representatives, who agreed "not to shoot". The Israel-Lebanon ceasefire statement followed Mr. Trump's announcement. Mr. Trump's firm diplomatic intervention, which reportedly included an expletive-laden call with Mr. Netanyahu, points to the importance he gives to the diplomatic process. Before the Lebanon crisis flared up, the U.S. and Iran were negotiating a memorandum of understanding to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and remove the U.S. blockade of Iranian ports, which would set the stage for negotiations on Iran's nuclear programme.

While the ceasefire agreement is welcome, it remains fragile and incomplete, leaving the conflict's key problems unaddressed. The actual fighting in Lebanon is between Israel and Hezbollah. The Lebanese government is not a party to the conflict and Hezbollah does not report to the Lebanese army. But Hezbollah was not part of the negotiations. The ceasefire agreement requires Hezbollah to unilaterally cease attacks, but it does not ask Israel to make concessions. Hezbollah says it would stop fighting only if Israel withdraws from southern Lebanon. Israel, which has made its deepest incursions into southern Lebanon since its 2000 withdrawal, is not talking about any withdrawal plan. Israel has also broken all its ceasefire agreements in recent years. Despite a truce deal, it continues to bomb Gaza. Mr. Trump's announcement of a new ceasefire despite an existing one highlights the fragility of the truce. What he is trying to do is to bring in a stopgap arrangement in Lebanon to push his planned deal with Iran. But for this to work, he should get firm commitments from Israel that it would not break the terms. For a lasting truce in Lebanon, Israel has to end its illegal occupation of the south and pull back its troops.

India needs innovative strategies to eliminate TB

Balram Bhargava

Former Director-General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

Soumya Swaminathan

Former Chief Scientist of the World Health Organization (WHO)

More than a century after the first tuberculosis vaccine was introduced, the world is struggling to control one of its oldest diseases. Tuberculosis (TB) continues to kill more people annually than any other infectious disease, surpassing even the COVID-19 pandemic at its peak. Yet, there is still no effective vaccine for adolescents and adults.

Once exposed to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, individuals may get infected and remain asymptomatic for years. Others develop subclinical disease, showing minimal or no symptoms while harbouring infection. A subset progresses to active TB, which may manifest as pulmonary TB (PTB) – the infectious form that drives transmission – or as extrapulmonary TB (EPTB), which affects organs beyond the lungs and is harder to diagnose, more debilitating, and sometimes fatal.

No one-size-fits-all vaccine

With such diversity in disease pathways, expecting a single "one-shot" vaccine to prevent all forms of TB may be unrealistic. This expectation has shaped global disappointment in TB vaccine development especially since most previous trials have focused primarily on preventing pulmonary TB.

Meanwhile, the burden remains immense. In many low- and middle-income countries, TB incidence ranges between 200 and 300 per 100,000 population. Reducing this to 10-20 per 100,000 – the threshold for elimination – will require sustained effort and enormous public health investment. For India, which carries one of the world's highest TB burdens, the challenge is systemic.

India's goal of eliminating TB is ambitious and necessary. But achieving it will require a holistic approach towards all forms of disease and all age groups moving beyond the search for a perfect solution and embracing a layered, pragmatic approach. As tools are discovered and tested, decisions will need to be made on their deployment.

The first layer is better detection. Advances in diagnostics, including tools for identifying subclinical TB, can help identify individuals at risk earlier. The second is preventive therapy, ensuring that those with latent infection receive treatment before progressing to active disease. The third – arguably the most complex – is vaccination. However, access to diagnostics and preventive therapy remains uneven, making vaccination an especially critical pillar.

Recent findings from the BMJ-published PreVenTB trial conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) provide such an opportunity. Conducted across 18 sites in India and involving more than 12,700 household contacts of TB patients, the trial evaluated VPM1002 developed by SIIPL and Immuvac developed by Cadila, in a real-world, high-risk population aged six years and above, including individuals with comorbidities and varying infection status closely reflecting real life conditions.

New Indian vaccine trial data show meaningful protection against extrapulmonary TB, underscoring the need for targeted vaccination alongside stronger public health strategies

The trial reported efficacy of VPM1002 and Immuvac as: 50.4% efficacy of VPM1002 against extrapulmonary TB (statistically significant); 64.6% efficacy of VPM1002 in children aged 6-14 years against all TB (PTB and EPTB); More than 60% efficacy of Immuvac against EPTB in children aged 6-10 years; more than 60% efficacy against progression to disease among those developing latent infection during follow-up and overall 21.4% efficacy of VPM1002 against all TB (Reference: Subho Sarkar, Consultant Intervention Pulmonologist; from LinkedIn). These are not trivial findings.

Extrapulmonary TB is the hidden burden of the epidemic, harder to diagnose, frequently missed, and associated with significant morbidity and mortality. A reduction of over 50% in such cases represents a meaningful clinical and public health impact, including reduced health-care costs and patient suffering.

The data also highlight a strong signal in school-age children and adolescents, where efficacy exceeded 60% which is an add-on benefit of vaccination in this age group. This is particularly relevant because India currently has no structured TB vaccination strategy beyond infancy. If confirmed, this could open the door to a booster-dose TB prevention strategy.

Need for nutritional support

Another important piece of evidence generated from study is the role of nutrition. Reduced efficacy was observed in individuals with low body mass index (BMI), underscoring the need for nutritional support for vaccines to work optimally in undernourished in context of broader health determinants.

From a programmatic standpoint, VPM1002 offers additional advantages. It is a single-dose vaccine based on a modified BCG platform, making it operationally simpler than multi-dose, adjuvanted vaccines in development. In a country of India's scale, logistical simplicity is a decisive advantage. The vaccine can be manufactured at large scale and cost effectively.

TB is largely a disease of low and middle income countries (LMIC) and their governments must act proactively. Waiting for expansive solutions developed elsewhere is neither practical nor sustainable. LMICs cannot afford to wait for a silver bullet, because there is no one-stop solution for TB, especially when there are results from a Phase III trial conducted in an Indian population across all age groups (six years and above) and against all forms of TB, including PTB and EPTB. It is to be noted that no other TB vaccine trial till date has studied efficacy against EPTB and none of the currently ongoing trials worldwide has included EPTB as the efficacy end-point.

India has navigated similar public health decisions before. TrueNat was the first 'make in India' Molecular test approved and adopted by the National TB Elimination Programme before its World Health Organization pre-qualification study.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Bharat Biotech's Covaxin was initially approved in "clinical trial mode" to enable early access while additional data continued to accumulate. That decision was driven not by perfection, but by urgency and it helped accelerate protection at a critical time.

India has also demonstrated this approach with indigenous rotavirus vaccines, which were introduced despite modest efficacy and wide confidence intervals. Since then, they have helped reduce severe disease and child mortality and have been incorporated into the national immunisation programme (Bhandari *et al.*, *The Lancet*, 2014).

A smarter TB strategy

TB is, in many ways, a slow-moving pandemic. Yet, it has not always been met with the same urgency in policy action. The policy question, therefore, is how innovations, including moderately effective vaccines such as VPM1002 and Immuvac, can be intelligently integrated into the TB elimination programme. Targeted use among household contacts, deployment in school-age children, and alignment with nutrition and preventive therapy programmes could together lead to a form a more effective TB control framework. A combination of vaccines effective across different indications and age groups may be needed to have an impact.

India's TB challenge is unlikely to be solved by a single breakthrough. It will require a combination of early detection, preventive treatment, targeted vaccination against both pulmonary and extrapulmonary TB, case-based clinical management, nutritional supplementation, and sustained public health investment.

Waiting for a perfect vaccine may delay progress indefinitely, especially when no trial other than the PreVenTB trial has evaluated vaccine efficacy against both pulmonary and extrapulmonary TB in individuals aged six years and above. In contrast, deploying tools that reduce severe disease, particularly EPTB, can deliver immediate and tangible benefits.

The PreVenTB trial trial is comprehensive, well-designed and well conducted, offering a meaningful signal – perhaps a light at the end of the tunnel in TB vaccine development. Given the urgency of the challenge and the limited time to act, we must focus on solutions that are available today and supported by robust evidence of efficacy against both PTB and EPTB in individuals aged six years and above under real-world conditions, rather than wait indefinitely in the hope that better options may emerge in the future – an outcome that is far from certain.

Rubio fails to win India back for Washington

Muqtedar Khan

Professor of International Relations at the University of Delaware, a Senior Non-Resident Fellow at the Middle East Policy Council and also host of a YouTube channel on global affairs called Khanversations

For nearly a year, strategic experts in India and the United States have warned that worsening bilateral ties could damage a partnership that former U.S. President Joe Biden called the most consequential of the 21st century. They argue that India remains central to America's Indo-Pacific strategy and indispensable to its competition with China in geopolitics, technology, and securing critical supply chains.

Warnings from think tanks, sense of betrayal

Think tanks have also been sounding the alarm. A March 2026 report by the Center for a New American Security, titled Repairing the Breach: Getting U.S.-India Ties Back on Track, said bilateral ties had "stumbled badly" in the second half of 2025. It cited U.S. President Donald Trump's claims about the May 2025 India-Pakistan ceasefire and his 50% tariffs on Indian exports as the key causes of the breach in trust, and recommended urgent steps to rebuild trust and deepen cooperation.

Similarly, the Hudson Institute's "New India Conference" underscored India's importance to U.S. interests and the Indo-Pacific balance of power. By featuring RSS General Secretary Dattatreya Hosabale, it also signalled a willingness to engage Hindutva nationalists despite concerns over their treatment of religious minorities.

This anxiety is not confined to Washington's think tanks, but also in India too. During a visit to India in January 2026, discussions at academic and policy institutions, as well as engagements with experts, diplomats and Indian foreign policy scholars, pointed to a common concern: New Delhi had lost trust in Washington. The damage was seen as not merely diplomatic or transactional, but also strategic. Many Indian experts believed that even if both sides recognised the importance of the relationship, it would take a long time to repair the trust deficit.

Three indicators came to define the deterioration in relations. The first was the growing U.S.-Pakistan strategic partnership in the post-Operation Sindoor period. As India sought to isolate Pakistan internationally, Mr. Trump's repeated praise for Pakistani leaders and the country's role in mediating with Iran was widely seen in India as a betrayal.

The U.S. Secretary of State's visit failed to bridge the widening U.S.-India divide

The second indicator was trade. The 50% tariffs levied on India – among the highest imposed on any country – came as a shock to New Delhi. The 25% tariff penalty on India, imposed specifically for buying Russian oil, further reinforced the perception that India was being singled out and punished for no apparent reason. The third indicator was the neglect of the Quad (Australia, India, Japan and the U.S.). The absence of head-of-state summits, combined with the lack of visible enthusiasm around the Quad meetings, suggested that one of the central pillars of America's Indo-Pacific strategy had been downgraded. The Quad, and therefore India, were clearly less important to Mr. Trump's plans which now appear to be more focused on carving a more productive partnership with China.

The Rubio visit and after

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit to India (May 23-26, 2026) gave him a clear opportunity to address all three parameters. Unfortunately, there was hardly any progress on the pending trade deal. On top of that, Mr. Rubio essentially gaslit India by asserting in a tweet that India had committed to buying $500 billion worth of American products over the next five years – a claim that Indian officials had disputed. The Quad Foreign Ministers' summit produced no major breakthrough and no clear announcement about when the heads of state would meet. Finally, when given an opportunity by the Indian press to criticise Pakistan for cross-border terrorism, Mr. Rubio instead chose to praise Pakistan's role in the Iran crisis.

He failed to take positions that would have reassured India that he had come to repair the relationship. Instead, the message he sent was that "America First" would be the only criterion determining U.S. choices, not any desire to repair the U.S.-India strategic partnership.

The symbolism after Mr. Rubio's return to Washington only reinforced this conclusion. Just hours later, he participated in a public Cabinet meeting. When Mr. Trump asked him about Iran, Mr. Rubio spoke about Iran, Ebola, Cuba, Venezuela, and even his stopover in Armenia, which he described as highly successful. But he did not mention India, his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, or the Quad meeting. Mr. Trump did not ask about India either. This amnesia is astonishing – coming just hours after a visit to one of America's most important strategic partners. Nor did Mr. Trump use his social media platforms to highlight the Quad or stress the importance of repairing U.S.-India relations.

It is precisely such indicators that make policymakers in New Delhi nervous. They signal that India's strategic significance has diminished in Washington's eyes.

A partnership that still matters

There remain many strategic reasons for the U.S. and India to work together: keeping the Indo-Pacific open, sustaining a partnership between major democracies in an era of rising authoritarianism, and collaborating on technological innovation, artificial intelligence, semiconductors, defence, and energy security. These shared interests have not disappeared and may well bring the two countries back toward closer cooperation. But for now, India and the U.S. are not as closely aligned as they were a year and a half ago.

If Mr. Rubio's goal was to repair the perceived damage done to India-U.S. relations since Mr. Trump's election in 2024, he clearly failed. But if his mission was to reinforce that American foreign policy will be driven by whatever Mr. Trump defines as "America First" on any given day, then perhaps he succeeded – making clear that American national interests are now shaped less by careful strategic thinking and more by the unpredictable thought process of President Trump.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EV battery safety

I write this letter as a Scientific Officer at the National Test House, Bengaluru, under the Government of India. The report, "On a Slow Charging Mode" (Bengaluru, 'Spotlight', June 5), highlighted that while infrastructure and cost remain hurdles to EV adoption, long-term consumer trust ultimately depends on battery safety. The government is expanding a robust testing ecosystem. State-of-the-art testing facilities for lithium-ion cells, battery packs, and EV chargers are already operational and continue to expand at National Test House centres in Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Kolkata. Industry players must make greater use of these accessible government laboratories.

R.N. Lokesh,
Bengaluru

Nicobar project

It is surprising that the government has chosen to mask the observation of the Public Investment Board (PIB) that the Nicobar's Galathea Bay project lacks "strategic objectives" and is now making all out efforts to project it as a strategic project ('Exclusive', Front page, June 5). It would be a great national loss if a natural ecosystem with pristine tropical forest is destroyed and ancient tribes displaced.

Kosaraju Chandramouli,
Hyderabad

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

The lane down which Flourish Stay in South Delhi caught fire, where the owner ran a hotel instead of a bed-and-breakfast that the property was licenced for. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Punished for a guilty system

A fire in a bed-and-breakfast took the lives of over 20 guests in Delhi's Hauz Rani. Of these, most were foreign nationals, mainly in India for their families' medical needs. The owner was allegedly misusing government permits and had no clearance from the fire department. **Suruchi Kumari** and **Shrimansi Kaushik** report on how, despite repeated announcements of government audits, on ground, compliance is a challenge

It is 12 noon on June 3, a day surprisingly not as hot as Delhi can get at this time, but the water from the fire extinguishers has dried up. About 200 people are gathered in a narrow lane in South Delhi's Hauz Rani, breathlessly recalling what happened that morning. The smoke has now cleared up over Flourish Stay, a bed-and-breakfast spread across six-storeys, but the building is charred. The structures flanking it are also blackened. This is the scene of a disaster.

The fire brigade says that 49 people were pulled out of the building. "There was no emergency exit, the doors on the terrace were locked, and the glass façade made rescue difficult. It left the trapped choking," says an officer. In addition, the main doors were powered by electricity, so could not be opened once the fire broke out.

Hauz Rani is a pre-independence urban village that has seen unregulated growth over the years. Homestays illegally converted into multi-storey hotels run cheek by jowl with homes and real-estate brokers' offices. The lanes are so narrow only a single car can fit. High-tension electricity wires hang dangerously close to the traffic below. Tall and small buildings are packed into the *lal dora* area, a historic land classification demarcating a village habitation zone. Here, construction on an existing structure does not require building layout plans to be approved by the authorities.

The uniformed forces are swarming around, as the traffic police barricades the area, up to 1 kilometre around Flourish Stay that had caught fire at 8:30 that morning. The residents of Hauz Rani are on the street. Some guests from the homestays around are also out, now worried about their safety.

The police does not allow those from Micasa, the lodge next door, to enter the building. One couple from Congo is panicked because they need their medicines from the room. Another asks what will happen to their passports and money. Across the next few hours, foreign nationals from other homestays begin leaving with their luggage.

By the evening, the boards of all the surrounding bed-and-breakfast places have been taken down, fearing a government crackdown.

Outside this mess, within a kilometre, are two of Delhi's newer areas: Malviya Nagar, from where the police and fire brigade arrived; and Saket, with a steel-and-glass strip of malls and Max hospital's buildings. The lodges serviced those coming into Delhi for treatment to this hospital. Thirteen of the people who died were foreign nationals from Bangladesh, Congo, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Uzbekistan, as per the Ministry of External Affairs. Nine were from India.

This is not Delhi's first disaster. Last month, an under-construction five-storey building collapsed in Saidulajab, killing six. Earlier in the month, a fire in a Vivek Vihar residential building killed nine. In March, another fire in Palam also killed nine, all from the same family. Over two-and-a-half months ago, the Delhi government promised a fire audit across the city.

> It did not take the fire more than a few minutes to blow out of the ground floor. There were sparks in the dangling web of wires which people would later step on to jump
>
> **RIYAZUDDIN MANSURI**
> Mattress-shop owner

The first hour

Ambulances began to arrive at 8:40 a.m. when locals had begun the rescue operation. "It did not take the fire more than a few minutes to blow out of the ground floor. There were sparks in the dangling web of wires which people would later step on to jump," says Riyazuddin Mansuri. He and his son Armaan, who had a mattress shop under a tin shed right opposite the B&B, used up their stock of over 20 mattresses to lay them down for those who began jumping. At the time, Mansuri says, he did this by instinct. "It felt like the thick smoke would swallow the whole neighbourhood."

He recalls feeling breathless, hours after. "People gathered and the narrow streets were already jammed by the time ambulances and fire services came. We were looking at people hanging from the windows, glass shreds falling on the road," he remembers.

The fire brigade arrived 45 minutes after the fire broke out, though officials say the call came to them 20 minutes into the fire. The police reached within 20 minutes, says the station house officer (SHO) of Malviya Nagar Police Station, Vinay Yadav. "They were late," the officer says of the fire engines. "There were ladders and mattresses, but no water," SHO Yadav says, of the alleged delay in the fire department reaching.

Seven fire tenders and 39 Delhi Fire Service personnel reached the spot and doused the fire within 20 minutes, they say. Deputy Chief Fire Officer A.K. Malik says that the nearest fire station at Geetanjali Enclave did not have water tenders. Firefighting units had to be called from over 7 km away. "We received the fire units that were called from Nehru Place and Bhikaji Cama Place. With Delhi traffic, it took them 19 minutes to reach the spot," he says.

Mohammed Israr Khan, a resident of Hauz Rani village, saw smoke rising towards the north of his house. He rushed to the spot with his brother. Three hours later, his yellow vest and shorts were black. He remembers: "A victim's phone rang while I was helping with the rescue. It was the person's mother. I could not say anything and handed the phone to the police. I didn't want to be the bearer of bad news."

Along with Wasim, Amir, Shahrukh, Afzal, Hazi, Shoaib, and Anish, he helped pull victims out and carry them to ambulances. "We were also clearing the way where cars and auto were parked," he says. Locals and officials later removed cars and autos to make way for ambulances.

Once the fire services arrived and broke open the main door, rescue teams entered with residents, who lent a hand. "When we entered the building with the police and rescue teams, we could not see anything. There was only smoke, screams, and wailing from every floor," Khan says. "Many had tried to escape and were trapped in the basement." Over the next couple of hours, he says he saw some gruesome sights.

Head Constable Dinesh Yadav says he helped rescue five people trapped on the west side of the building. "When I climbed the ladder to break open the window of the bathroom on the second floor, two Nigerian women were unconscious. For others who were trapped on different floors, there was no way to go out. I guided three people to climb down the rainwater pipe along the building and jump from there," he says. Yadav suffered injuries from glass shreds and had blisters on his arms from the melting cables that fell on him. Ten constables and head constables were taken to AIIMS for treatment.

Police action

The same day, the police apprehended the owner of the building, Lavkesh Bajaj, for negligence. An initial enquiry revealed he had been misusing a 'Bed & Breakfast' (B&B) license issued by the Tourism Department of the Delhi government. His permit allowed for only six rooms, but he had been running 26 rooms, including a basement. He had no clearance from the fire department.

He also did not have permission to run a kitchen and a restaurant on the ground floor from where the fire allegedly started. The kitchen was being run under a different licence, called the tea-and-snacks licence, issued by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), the capital's civic body.

While no hotel staff was present on the spot, Bajaj was allegedly seen driving past the raging building in the CCTV visuals that went viral later. While the fire was raging, the MCD received an application between 9.30 a.m. and 10 a.m., for the yearly renewal of the tea-and-snacks license "without seating" at the same address. It had expired two months before.

The police registered an FIR against Bajaj under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita's Sections 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 326 (g) (mischief by fire), 324 (5) (wrongful damage of property), 125 (a) (endangering human life and safety), 125 (b) (causing hurt by negligence), and 287 (negligent conduct with respect to fire). He was produced in court the next day.

The police are still looking for Jay Mishra, Bajaj's accountant, who handled day-to-day operations of the hotel. The B&B license had been issued in his name.

Lives lost and saved

Vivek Aggarwal, 47, the head of finance at an insurance company, lost his life in the fire along with seven members of his family. They had been stranded in the basement. His wife Tarjani, daughters, and mother lived with him in Gurugram, while his aunt and uncle had come from Ajmer to meet his father, who was in Max hospital. His cousin Ashok Goyal had come from Kishangarh in Uttar Pradesh.

Prem Bansal, Tarjani's father, says, "I had called my daughter just 15 minutes before the incident to ask when they had planned to go and meet her father-in-law. She said it was too early to think about that and cut the call. Half an hour later, Vivek's brother, Mahendra, informed me about the fire," he says. Mahendra was outside the hotel, trying to rescue the members, after he received a call from Vivek that there had been a fire. He alleges that the fire services did not have the cutters to cut through the basement shutters in time.

Isaac, a 62-year-old Nigerian national, is mostly quiet, says the attendant in the Intensive Care Unit of Max hospital. He is injured, but his wife didn't survive the jump from the third floor. The couple had travelled to Delhi for Isaac's medical treatment.

Habib, 20, from Bangladesh, had come to donate a part of his liver to his father. When he jumped from the second floor, his liver was impacted. Doctors have told him that he may not be able to donate it now. His father is in the same hospital, awaiting a liver transplant. Three others, including his mother, sister, and uncle, all jumped with him, and are injured. His mother says she will never stay in a hotel again.

The action plans that followed

By the evening of the fire, a series of condolences and measures to fix accountability were announced by the Delhi Government. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for the next of kin of each deceased member, and ₹50,000 to each of the injured.

Lieutenant-Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu chaired a meeting along with Delhi Home Minister Ashish Sood. He ordered a magisterial inquiry into the incident along with a month-long drive from June 4 to review safety compliance of all hotels, lodges, inns, nursing homes, coaching institutes, restaurants, and other vulnerable commercial establishments in the city.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta sought a detailed report on the incident and warned of strict action if any lapses were found. On June 4, Gupta announced a compensation of ₹10 lakh to the next of kin of the people who died in the fire. The injured will receive ₹5 lakh each, she said, after she visited Max hospital, where most of the injured were.

The following day, teams were formed across Delhi's 13 districts by the government. In addition, the MCD began surveying all buildings with five floors and over. The civic body had also identified 12 B&Bs in the Hauz Rani area to seal, as they were violating permits given by the Tourism Department.

Simultaneously, Tourism Minister Kapil Mishra told *The Hindu*, "The department only gives permission for B&Bs. Regulatory enforcement is not carried out by our department, nor is any other follow-up inspection." Flourish Stay was granted the licence in 2024, valid through 2027. Mishra also says his department will review the draft policy, which was put in the public domain on May 26, 2026, for suggestions. The draft policy has proposed a self-certification and self-renewal framework, with "deemed approval" within seven working days, down from 30 days in the 2007 policy.

Meanwhile, MCD officials, including South Zone Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Kumar, say that it is not their job to check for violations under the B&B policy. Kumar says that those who grant the licence are supposed to enforce its rules. "We cannot take any action on buildings constructed before 2014 as they are exempt from MCD building by-laws," he says, of the structure that was built in the 1980s.

In January this year, after the Goa fire tragedy claimed 25 lives the month before, the MCD asked all 12 zones to conduct scrutiny of licences, including the instant ones. The tea-and-snacks licence comes under this category. For this B&B, the scrutiny, which involves a physical inspection, was marked "closed" a day before the fire. This meant there were no violations detected.

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Local people rescue a foreign national from the fire in New Delhi. AP

From Page One

GDP growth estimated at 7.7% in 2025-26: data

Earlier this year, the government also updated the base year of the GDP data to 2022-23 and improved its methodology.

The data shows that the manufacturing sector is estimated to have grown at 10.7% in 2025-26 as compared to 9.3% in the first revised estimates for 2024-25. However, in Q4 of 2025-26, the sector grew at 7.3%, as opposed to 11.8% in the same quarter of the previous year. The "trade, repair, hotels, transport, communication & services related to broadcasting and storage" sector similarly saw its growth estimate quicken to 11% in 2025-26 from 6.6% in 2024-25. In Q4, the sector accelerated to 12.4% from 6.3% in Q4 of 2024-25. The agriculture sector, however, is expected to see growth slowing to 3% in 2025-26 from 4.2% in the previous year, with growth in Q4 slowing to 3.6% from 3.8% in the fourth quarter of 2024-25.

The data also shows that the growth of private final consumption expenditure is estimated to have quickened to 7.7% in 2025-26 from 5.8% in the previous year. Asset creation and investment, in the form of gross fixed capital formation, is also estimated to have grown 8.2% in 2025-26 from 6.4% in 2024-25.

Looking ahead, economists across the board, however, have warned that growth in 2026-27 could slow due to the pressure on demand and price levels being exerted by the crisis in West Asia, as well as the possibility of a lower-than-normal monsoon.

'Bengaluru is the biggest talent pool in Asia'

(From right) N. Ram, Director of The Hindu Group; Nirmala Lakshman, Chairperson, The Hindu Group; Narayan Lakshman, Curator, The Hindu Huddle and Opinion Editor, *The Hindu;* Anju Majeed, Chairperson, Sami-Sabinsa Group at the conclave. K. MURALI KUMAR

Commending the newspaper's editorial integrity, he said that *The Hindu* had remained steadfast despite political and governmental pressures, adding that the newspaper had not budged under political or government pressure. "Your pen is very straight," he said.

'We export best of talent'

On Bengaluru's global image, the Chief Minister said, "While California has 13 lakh IT professionals, Bengaluru has 26 lakh IT professionals. Karnataka produces 13,940 doctors, over a lakh engineers and 1.2 lakh nurses every year. We export the best of the talent to the rest of the world. A few months ago when I was in Davos, everyone said they find the best talent pool in India only in Bengaluru."

Indicating this did not happen overnight, Mr. Shivakumar said even during the time of Jawaharlal Nehru, key organisations such as the Indian Space Research Organisation, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Hindustan Machine Tools, Bharat Electronics Limited and the Indian Institute of Management were started in Bengaluru.

Pressure to limit India-Russia ties will hurt global stability, says Putin

Russian President calls India a reliable partner, says a 'large economy' like India will prioritise national interests; New Delhi's relations with U.S. will not cause friction, he says; points out that it is 'not a good idea' to interfere in 'delicate' India-China ties

Press Trust of India
ST. PETERSBURG

Western pressure on Prime Minister Narendra Modi to scale back India's engagement with Russia will harm global stability, Russian President Vladimir Putin said late on Thursday at a press conference.

"Everyone has understood that putting pressure on Prime Minister Narendra Modi (and India) that has the largest population in the world, is detrimental for international relations and for bilateral relations. It doesn't matter where this pressure comes from," he said.

Calling India a "reliable" strategic partner, Mr. Putin said India's growth has not "come out of the blue" but was an outcome of the hard work done under Mr. Modi's leadership.

The remarks came against the backdrop of Western capitals expressing unease over India-Russia relations and the oil trade amid the Ukraine war.

The U.S., for instance, has been asking India to stop importing Russian crude oil and had slapped punitive tariffs.

Vladimir Putin had met Narendra Modi during a visit to New Delhi for a bilateral summit in December 2025. R.V. MOORTHY

But Mr. Putin said New Delhi will prioritise its national interests and added that India's engagement with the U.S. does not affect its strategic ties with Russia.

"I don't think this is a case. We are glad that India is developing its relations with all the countries, it's a great country, a large economy, the largest democracy, it is only natural that it develops its economy in accordance with its interest with those countries that it deems necessary," Mr. Putin said when asked whether India's alignment with Washington creates structural friction for Russia.

No interference

Last September, in the wake of U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff war, a photo of Mr. Modi, Mr. Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping from the SCO Summit in Tianjin grabbed the global spotlight. Mr. Putin, who is set to visit India in September for the BRICS summit, said Moscow will not interfere in the "delicate" bilateral relations between India and China.

Russian President says he does not believe Pak. is under the control of China

The Russian President, who called Mr. Xi his "old friend", said, "This is a delicate, multi-faceted relationship between India and China, and interfering into them is not a good idea. Of course, we interact with both our friends... President Xi and Prime Minister Modi are both trying to resolve all the issues of mutual interest, including the border issue."

Highlighting Moscow's strategic equilibrium in Asia, President Putin characterised Russia's ties with India and China as having evolved organically. He stressed that Moscow's growing synergy with New Delhi does not come at Beijing's expense, just as Russia's deep alliance with China does not compromise its bond with India.

"Russia has established these relations (with India and China). It was happening naturally. Relations between Russia and India do not disturb China, our relations with China do not disturb India," he said.

Mr. Putin also touched upon the ties between India and Pakistan. "We are well aware of the intricacies of the issues concerning the border between India and Pakistan," he said, addding that he does not believe Pakistan was under the control of China.

Su-57 on offer

The President also offered Russia's fifth-generation stealth aircraft Su-57 to India and suggested that the combat jet could be jointly built in India.

"As for the Su-57, we offered our friends from India to jointly develop this machine, a fifth-generation aircraft. I think it's the best to date. But our Indian friends said, 'well, let's see'," he said.

"In principle, this could have been our (Russia-India) product. We made it independently. And we are ready to work with India. To work and develop. There will be no restrictions whatsoever," he said.

Court denies bail to blogger accused of spying for Pak.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed the bail application of Haryana-based travel blogger Jyoti Malhotra, accused of sharing sensitive information with Pakistan, observing that the allegations levelled against her were "very serious".

A Bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and S.C. Sharma dismissed her petition challenging a March 7 order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court denying her bail, observing that considerations of national security had to be given due weight. Taking note of the allegations that she had travelled to Pakistan and met government officials there, the Bench held that no case for grant of bail was made out.

Ms. Malhotra, a resident of Hisar who ran a YouTube channel called "Travel-with-Jo", is accused of sharing sensitive information with Pakistani intelligence operatives. The Haryana Police registered a case against her under the Official Secrets Act and Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which deals with acts endangering the sovereignty and integrity of the country. She has been in custody since her arrest on May 16 last year.

Nepal Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal arrives in Delhi, meets National Security Adviser

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

In a sign of Kathmandu's deepening security dialogue with India, Nepal Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal met National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on Friday.

Mr. Khanal is the first Minister from Prime Minister Balen Shah's Cabinet to visit India at an official level, since Nepal's new government was elected in March to replace the interim administration that had taken charge after the September 2025 Gen-Z uprising against former Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli's government.

"With Nepal, we have an expansive agenda, from development cooperation to people-to-people ties to trade and investment. All these ties will be discussed when the two Foreign Ministers meet. But on our side, we are keen to further strengthen this multifaceted partnership that we have with Nepal," said Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, announcing Mr. Khanal's arrival at an official briefing.

Shisir Khanal

Earlier, Nepal's Foreign Affairs Ministry had said that Mr. Khanal's visit to India between June 5 and 7 would enhance cooperation "across key areas including trade, investment, connectivity, energy, and people-to-people ties". Mr. Khanal had met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Mauritius between April 10 and 12 on the sidelines of the Indian Ocean Conference.

The last Nepali Foreign Minister to visit India was Arzu Rana Deuba, who visited Delhi in August 2024 and then again in December that year to participate in a think tank event. The downfall of the Oli government had paused high-level diplomatic engagements while Nepal was governed by the interim arrangement.

Correcting 'discrepancies' is normal practice in statistical exercise, says Census official

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

An official from the office of Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (RG&CCI) said on Friday that that the House Listing Operation is still under way in Rajasthan and that the process of Census is multi-pronged.

Swadha Dev Singh, Director, RG & CCI, said in an e-mail that, primarily, the enumerators collect data through house-to-house visits. "Supervisors and other senior Census functionaries conduct field inspections to see that enumerators have properly understood the concepts and correctly recorded data from the respondents. In case of any discrepancy, it is pointed out to enumerator for suitable modification. This is a normal practice in any administrative statistical exercise, which is followed in Census operations as well," she said in response to a report in *The Hindu* on June 4 titled "Recheck ordered over 'discrepancies' in Census 2027 data".

Ms. Singh added that "there have been some attempts to misrepresent this normal exercise as data tampering, which is regrettable and factually inaccurate".

The Hindu spoke with enumerators in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan who said that they were being asked to revisit households and correct the data "discrepancies", particularly on issues such as open defecation and household access to electricity or cooking gas connections.

This is the first digital Census and enumerators, mostly government school teachers, are keying in the data through mobile apps on their personal phones. The process can be monitored in real time by their superior officers.

On May 25, CG Box, a Raipur-based digital media platform, published a report, which said that school teachers in Chhattisgarh were being asked to edit the entries on open defecation and LPG connection after they had completed the survey of a household. Devesh Tiwari, who runs CG Box, said that several teachers had approached him stating they were being asked to edit the entries.

Three villagers killed, houses torched in Manipur; CM condemns attack

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Unidentified gunmen killed three Kuki villagers, including a woman, and torched seven houses in Kangpokpi district of Manipur around 4 a.m. on Friday.

The Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM), the apex body of the Kuki community in Manipur, accused members of the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN) and its "proxy", the Kamson faction of the Zeliangrong United Front. The NSCN is also referred to as the Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland. The Naga groups have not yet reacted to the allegation.

"This reprehensible act of violence has resulted in the tragic killing of three innocent civilians – Letkhongam Haokip, his wife Tinmary Haokip, and Jangminlal Haokip – while seven houses were reduced to ashes and substantial damage was inflicted upon civilian properties," the KIM stated in a statement condemning the attack.

Security personnel stand guard in Imphal. PTI (IMAGE USED FOR REPRESENTATION PURPOSE)

"The deliberate killing of innocent persons and the destruction of homes and livelihoods constitute a serious violation of human dignity and fundamental human rights. The deliberate targeting of civilians and the destruction of homes can never be justified under any circumstances," it said.

Condemning the attack, the Kuki-Zo Council said that the continued atrocities against the Kuki-Zo people have reaffirmed the legitimacy of the demand for a separate administration.

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh also condemned the "brutal" and "cowardly" attack that resulted in the killing of three civilians. He also instructed the authorities to enhance security in vulnerable areas.

Friday's attack came less than 24 hours after the All Naga Students' Association, Manipur, launched a march from Ukhrul to a village in Kangpokpi district to meet the families of six Naga men who have been missing since three church leaders were killed on May 13.

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit to be next Vice-Chief of Air Staff

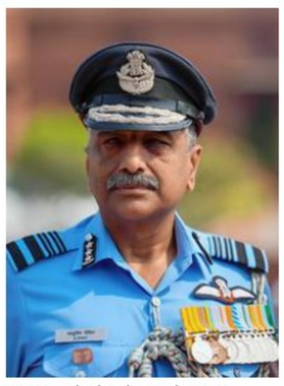
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, a distinguished fighter pilot and test pilot, has been appointed the next Vice-Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS) and will assume office on July 1. He succeeds Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor.

Currently serving as the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CISC), Air Marshal Dixit has played a pivotal role in enhancing jointness among the armed forces and advancing efforts towards the creation of integrated theatre commands.

His tenure has focused on improving coordination and operational synergy between the Army, Navy and Air Force.

An accomplished officer with extensive operational and leadership experience, Air Marshal Dixit has also been closely associated with the Indian Air Force's modernisation drive.



Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit

During various assignments at the Air headquarters, he contributed significantly to the promotion of indigenous fighter aircraft programmes and capability enhancement initiatives.

Commissioned into the fighter stream of the Indian Air Force on December 6, 1986, Air Marshal Dixit is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, the Defence Services Staff College, Bangladesh, and the National Defence College, New Delhi.

Flying instructor

A qualified flying instructor and an experimental test pilot, he has accumulated more than 3,300 flying hours on over 20 types of aircraft, including the Mirage-2000, MiG-21 and Jaguar fighter jets.

During his distinguished career, he commanded a premier fighter training base under the Southern Air Command, which earned recognition as the best base in the command during his tenure.

Cong. flags failure of ED, CBI in Rajesh Exports case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday questioned why economic offences investigating agencies such as the ED, the Serious Fraud Investigation Office, the CBI, and the Financial Intelligence Unit failed to act over alleged financial irregularities at Rajesh Exports, a jewellery company, after interim findings by the SEBI pointed to one of the biggest case of financial misrepresentation in India's corporate history.

Congress said the findings exposed not only irregularities in reported revenues of about ₹15.15 lakh crore but exposed serious weaknesses in the government's regulatory oversight.

Assam Cabinet expanded; 12 new Ministers take oath

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma expanded his Cabinet on Friday, taking the strength of the Council of Ministers to 17. The State can have a maximum of 19 Ministers, including the Chief Minister, based on the total of 126 seats in the Assembly.

Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya administered the oath of office and secrecy to 12 MLAs – 11 from the BJP and one from Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) – at a function at the Jyoti-Bishnu Antarjatik Kala Mandir in Guwahati.

"It is a balanced team, which represents the aspirations of all sections of people, and their experience and wisdom will further strengthen our resolve to build a Viksit [developed] Assam," Mr. Sarma said after the ceremony.

He took the oath as the Chief Minister on May 12, along with Rameswar Teli and Ajanta Neog (BJP), Atul Bora (AGP), and Charan Bodo of the Bodoland People's Front.

Eight of the 12 Ministers are experienced. They are Ashok Singhal, Bimal Borah, Jayanta Mallabaruah, Kaushik Rai, Krishnendu Paul, Pijush Hazarika and Ranoj Pegu, and Keshab Mahanta.

The rest include Nilima Devi, a first-time MLA, Biswajit Daimary, a former Rajya Sabha member, Sushanta Borgohain and Ashwini Ray Sarkar.

CBSE invited ethical hacker to plug security gaps in IT system

The Board had earlier denied any security breach; for two weeks, an IIT expert team worked 16 to 18 hours daily to patch vulnerabilities that were emerging in CBSE IT ecosystem; team to submit report to Education Ministry in coming weeks

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) invited ethical hacker Nisarga Adhikary, 19, this week for meetings with an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) expert team to flag security gaps in its IT ecosystem. Mr. Adhikary last month reported "critical vulnerabilities" in the portal that stores sensitive student data. The CBSE had earlier denied any breach in its data security.

"Nisarga is a bright kid. He found important vulnerabilities. We were curious to understand his thought process. Because he happened to be in Delhi, we exchanged messages and found him very focused on cybersecurity, so we called him in to help us fix the system," a member of the IIT expert team said.

"It is very important to admit that there is a breach, but earlier CBSE was not properly advised on how to deal with the situation. On the contrary, when the JEE (Advanced) portal had a minor breach, we admitted the flaw and fixed it," the member said.

Pressing problems: Youth Congress members protest in Guwahati against the issues in the conduct of national-level tests. ANI

IIT team

Top cybersecurity experts from the Indian Institutes of Technology, Madras and Kanpur, including their respective Directors, camped at the CBSE headquarters in New Delhi for nearly two weeks starting May 24 to fix the IT ecosystem.

"Top faculty members suddenly had to drop everything and stay put at CBSE for two weeks to patch vulnerabilities in two portals – the on-screen marking (OSM) portal On-Mark, developed by private firm COEMPT Eduteck, and the CBSE portal for procuring answer sheets and applying for re-evaluation," sources in the Education Ministry said.

The IIT-Madras team consisted of two cybersecurity experts in addition to Director V. Kamakoti, while the IIT- Kanpur team consisted of Director Manindra Agarwal and a senior cybersecurity engineer.

Sources said that for two weeks, the expert team worked 16 to 18 hours every day to patch vulnerabilities that were emerging in the CBSE IT ecosystem. The team found that the OSM portal developed by COEMPT Eduteck had "a lot of vulnerabilities", including "seven to eight" critical ones.

"The external vendor [COEMPT Eduteck] had severely misconfigured the cloud storage 'buckets' holding the data and kept unsecured backup copies of students' answer scripts on their own servers. The team had to migrate the data to securely configured buckets," the expert team member added. "We also asked COEMPT to delete answer script data backups from their servers and they have complied."

Among the "critical vulnerabilities" that were fixed was an "Authentication Bypass", which is a flaw that allowed anyone to log into the system without being a genuine student. The second vulnerability provided unauthorised administrative access to the central server. In addition, a 'Data Exposure' glitch allowed any logged-in user to extract the answer scripts of students.

"Once code is developed which is insecure, patching it is a herculean task," the IIT expert explained, noting that changing a single flawed function often has a cascading effect across multiple different places in a massive codebase.

War room set up

To fix the system, the IIT expert team set up a classic "Red Team versus Blue Team" dynamic. The Blue Team – comprising IIT-Madras experts, CBSE developers, and the Digital India Corporation (DIC) officials – modified the code to defend the portals meant for re-evaluation and on-screen marking. The Red Team, consisting of IIT-Kanpur experts, acted as aggressive hackers, constantly trying to breach the system.

"Following four intense rounds of back-and-forth testing, the Red Team finally withdrew after being unable to find any more weaknesses," Prof. Agarwal, Director, IIT-Kanpur, told *The Hindu*.

He said artificial intelligence tools, including Claude, were deployed to find vulnerabilities in an easier and faster manner.

The re-evaluation portal was launched after extensive load management restructuring on June 2, and the work on securing OSM portal was successfully completed on Thursday evening, with it officially going live on Friday, officials confirmed.

On June 2 and 3, the re-evaluation portal faced massive, coordinated standard Denial of Service attacks aimed at bringing the systems down, an IIT expert confirmed. Within a mere two-minute window on June 2, the system was hit with 13 lakh login attempts. The next day, that number jumped to over 30 lakh attempts.

"While only a few thousand genuine students were trying to access copies at that moment, the attack multiplied the traffic 100 times over to freeze the system. Because of the newly implemented load management, the system held itself together," the member added.

The IIT expert team will submit a formal report to the Education Ministry in the coming weeks.

CBSE files complaint over cyberattacks on re-evaluation portal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Post-Result Services Portal was subjected to coordinated cyberattacks over the past three days, says CBSE

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has filed a formal complaint with the Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations (IFSO) Unit of the Delhi Police over a series of coordinated and sophisticated cyberattacks directed at its Post-Result Services Portal.

The police have registered a case under Section 66 along with Sector 43 (F) of the IT Act and investigation has been taken up.

"As the portal caters to lakhs of students across the country for availing post-result services, any disruption to its functioning has the potential to adversely impact a large number of stakeholders, cause significant public inconvenience, and affect public order and create dissatisfaction amongst students against the Board," the CBSE said in a public statement.

The portal, launched on June 2 to facilitate services such as verification and re-evaluation of answer scripts for candidates who had appeared in the Class 12 Board examination, was subjected to repeated and coordinated cyberattacks over the past three days, the CBSE said.

The portal had accepted more than 56,000 applications for verification and re-evaluation as of 9.30 p.m. on June 3.

"The attacks involved large volumes of malicious traffic originating from multiple IP addresses within and outside the country. The apparent objective of the attackers appeared to be destabilising the platform, denying access to legitimate users, and attempting unauthorised extraction of information by the elements inimical to national interest," the CBSE stated.

'Systems remain secure'

In view of the nature, scale, and coordinated character of these attacks, the CBSE has approached the IFSO Unit for a detailed probe and appropriate legal action against those responsible. "It is emphasized that despite these malicious attempts, CBSE's systems and databases remain secure and uncompromised. No data breach or unauthorized access has been detected," it stated.

The attacks were successfully mitigated through continuous 24×7 monitoring and response mechanisms, with support from cybersecurity teams from IIT-Kanpur, IIT-Madras, Digital India Corporation, Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), CERT-In, and other government agencies, it said.

Great Nicobar project to benefit Adani, not defence: Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday alleged that the BJP's claim that the Great Nicobar Island project is a strategic one is a "lie", aimed at helping industrialist Gautam Adani.

On World Environment Day, Mr. Gandhi launched an online petition, inviting citizens to join the campaign which read: "We choose green over greed."

Releasing a 16-minute video based on his visit to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in April, Mr. Gandhi alleged that the Centre's proposed mega-development project in Great Nicobar would lead to large-scale ecological destruction and displacement of local communities while primarily serving private commercial interests. The project involves building a transshipment hub, an airport and a tourist township. "The Modi government tells you the Great Nicobar project is about defence. It is not," Mr. Gandhi said in the video, titled 'This is what Modi doesn't want you to see'.

He argued that if strategic considerations were paramount, the government should expand INS Baaz, the naval air station located on the Nicobar Islands, a move that the Congress would fully support.

In deep waters: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi scuba dives during a visit to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on Friday. @INCINDIA

"The Navy has been asking for expansion for five years. If you want to make a military argument, expand INS Baaz. There is no need to destroy rainforests for that," he said.

"INS Baaz is also on the coast. The point is that they want to help Mr. Adani and these criminals are hiding behind the Navy, the forces, to steal Indian land. They are saying they want to build a transshipment port, but it is a non-starter as they are already building a port in Kerala, which is on the mainland so that is the first lie."

'Ecology under threat'

Alleging the project was intended to facilitate large-scale commercial development, including hotels and casinos, he said more than 1.5 crore trees, ancient rainforests and coral reefs were under threat. And the size of the area being talked about is four times that of New Delhi.

In a post on X, Mr. Gandhi said he had visited Indira Point, interacted with settlers and tribal communities, and witnessed the island's ecological richness first hand. He alleged that tribal communities were being deprived of their land in violation of the Forest Rights Act and that settlers were not receiving fair compensation.

"What kind of India do you want to inherit? One where rainforests have been bulldozed for casinos, coral reefs erased from maps, tribal communities pushed off land, and the air we breathe turned into poison? Or one where India's heritage is protected, tribal communities are safe, and progress works with nature not against it," he asked, urging youngsters to sign his online petition.

Island administration plans to introduce polls as in rest of the nation to Nicobarese

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Centrally administered Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is planning to introduce elections, as in the rest of India, to the Nicobarese tribal community in the archipelago.

This includes measures such as delimitation of constituencies, preparation of electoral rolls, and reserving seats and positions of leadership for women. It is doing this by introducing draft rules for the conduct of such elections, which provide for ballot paper polls to Village Councils and the constitution of the Island Tribal Councils, that will be representing the Nicobarese communities through electoral constituencies for terms of five years each.

The administration's draft rules for polls have already ignited urgent talks in the archipelago.

The rules spell out how the Election Commission and the administration should prepare electoral rolls, draw constituency boundaries, the terms of reference for the appointment of election officials, and requirements for contesting and campaigning for elections.

The draft rules have already ignited urgent discussions amongst the Island Tribal Councils across the Nicobar Islands, with some village captains arguing this threatened the bureaucratisation of the governance they have been intuitively practising through generations.

Some others have raised suspicions that these draft rules were an attempt to give rise to a Nicobarese leadership that might be more favourable to the Centre's interests, especially on Great Nicobar Island, where the existing Tribal Council has been opposing the ₹92,000-crore airport, container port, and tourist-township project for close to four years now.

These rules have been put out for public consultation by the Directorate of Tribal Welfare, under the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Tribal Councils) Regulations of 2009.

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Mahalakshmipuram Division, 12th Main, 11th Cross, West of Chord Road, Bengaluru West City Corporation, Bengaluru.

No:EE/MLP/TEND/E-PROC/05/2026-27 Date: 03.06.2026

Short Term Tender Notification
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPPP only)
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the work mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bengaluru West City Corporation or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/ MES/BBMP or any State Government Organizations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Improvements of Roads and Drains in Industrial Suburb and surrounding area in Ward No. 36, Nalavadi Krishanaraj Wodeyar. **Estimate Cost (₹ in Lakhs): 150.00, EMD (₹ in Lakhs): 2.25.**
2.	Improvements to Roads and Drains in Parimala Nagara and surrounding area in Ward No. 37, Dr. Puneet Rajkumar. **Estimate Cost (₹ in Lakhs): 150.00, EMD (₹ in Lakhs): 2.25.**
3.	Improvements to Roads and Drains in Jaimaruthinagara and surrounding area in Ward No. 38, Nandini Layout. **Estimate Cost (₹ in Lakhs): 150.00, EMD (₹ in Lakhs): 2.25.**
4.	Improvement of Roads and Drains in Sriramanagara and J.C Nagara surrounding area in Ward No. 40, Mahalakshmipuram. **Estimate Cost (₹ in Lakhs): 150.00, EMD (₹ in Lakhs): 2.25.**
5.	Improvement of Roads and Drains in Bhovipalya and surrounding area in Ward No. 41, Nagapura. **Estimate Cost (₹ in Lakhs): 150.00, EMD (₹ in Lakhs): 2.25.**
6.	Improvement of Roads and Drains in V.H.B.C.S and M. G. Nagara surrounding area in Ward No. 43, Kethamaranahalli. **Estimate Cost (₹ in Lakhs): 150.00, EMD (₹ in Lakhs): 2.25.**
7.	Improvement of Roads and Drains in Sakamma Badavane, J.S. Nagara in Ward No. 39, Jaimaruthinagara. **Estimate Cost (₹ in Lakhs): 150.00, EMD (₹ in Lakhs): 2.25.**
8.	Improvement of Roads and Drains in J. C. Nagara Ward No. 42, Rajaj Mayuravarma. **Estimate Cost (₹ in Lakhs): 150.00, EMD (₹ in Lakhs): 2.25.**
9.	Improvement of Roads and Drains in Kaveri Nagara and surrounding area Ward No. 44, Shankarmutt. **Estimate Cost (₹ in Lakhs): 150.00, EMD (₹ in Lakhs): 2.25.**
10.	Improvement of Roads and Drains in Shakthiganapathinagara and surrounding area in Ward No. 45, Shakthiganapthinagara. **Estimate Cost (₹ in Lakhs): 150.00, EMD (₹ in Lakhs): 2.25.**
11.	Improvement of Roads and Drains in Kamalanagara and surrounding area in Ward No. 46, Kamalanagara. **Estimate Cost (₹ in Lakhs): 150.00, (₹ in Lakhs): 2.25.**
12.	Improvement of Roads and Drains in Vinayaka Nagara and surrounding area in Ward No. 47, Vrushabhavathinagara. **Estimate Cost (₹ in Lakhs): 150.00, EMD (₹ in Lakhs): 2.25.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal from **09.06.2026 after 4:30 p.m. (2)** Last date for Receipt of Queries **12.06.2026 up to 3:00 p.m. (3)** Pre bid meeting will be on **12.06.2026 at 3:30 p.m. (4)** Last Date for uploading the Filled proposals is on **17.06.2026 up to 4:00 p.m. (5)** Date of Opening of Technical Proposals is on **18.06.2026 after 4:30 p.m.** through KPP Portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mahalakshmipuram Division, BWCC.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA-DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC –SHAR
SRIHARIKOTA-524124

Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender Notice No. PT-E-26-002 Date: 04/06/2026

On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following works:

Sl. No.	Brief Name of work	Value (Rs)
1	Providing streetlights for PHC-I, PHC-II and CISF Barrack Grounds at SDSC SHAR.	25.83 Lakhs

Last date for sale (Tender documents can be downloaded) up to **16/06/2026 14:30 hrs**. For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and tender free view at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/isro**.

Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/ SDSC SHAR

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
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(Telephone No. 0471-2945600, 2945646)
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website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No.KMSCL/ED/RT-4/2026 Date : 05.06.2026

RE-TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited from manufacturers/direct importers / loan licensees on behalf of Department of Health, Govt of Kerala for the procurement of drugs for the year 2026-27.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	Category	No. of Items
1.	KMSCL/ED/I&II/RT/2026/014 dtd. 05.06.2026	Drugs	15

Schedule of dates

	Date	Time
Last date of online uploading of tenders	15.06.2026	05.00pm.
Date of technical bid opening	17.06.2026	11.00 am.

Tenders shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**.

(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

INBRIEF

Bihar removes Z+ security for Lalu, retains Y+ for Tejashwi

The NDA government in Bihar has withdrawn the Z+ security cover accorded to Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad and his wife, Rabri Devi, along with the Y-category security provided to their elder son, Tej Pratap Yadav. However, the government has decided to retain the Y+ security cover for the Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Yadav, his elder sister Misa Bharti, and his wife, Rajshree Yadav. Mr. Prasad and Ms. Devi, both former Chief Ministers, will now be provided security cover by the Bihar Special Armed Police. This was done following a review of the protection provided to VIPs in the State.

Ex-Trinamool MLA Saokat Molla arrested in blast case

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday night arrested former Trinamool Congress MLA Saokat Molla, the prime suspect in the Bhangar blast case, from West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district, hours after declaring him as 'absconding'. One person was killed, and three others were critically injured in a crude bomb explosion at the Dakshin Bamunia village in South 24 Parganas district on March 19, while it was allegedly being made. "We have arrested Saokat Molla as part of the ongoing investigation into the Bhangar bomb blast case. He will be produced before a court," an NIA official said. With Mr. Molla's arrest, the total number of people held in the case has gone up to four.

Modi slams Congress, says India doesn't accept uncertainty, chaos

PM unveils projects worth ₹18,777 crore in Gujarat; says people are fed up with the misgovernance of Congress; he criticises those questioning Atmanirbhar Bharat and India's development vision, stresses importance of self-reliance in energy sector

Abhinay Deshpande
AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the Congress had spent the past 12 years trying to create "chaos and uncertainty" in an attempt to regain political space, but asserted that people across the country had given the party a "strong response".

Addressing a public function in Surat, where he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth ₹18,777 crore, Mr. Modi said Gujarat had already sidelined the Congress and claimed that people in States governed by the party were dissatisfied with its performance.

"In Gujarat, you have pushed the Congress aside, but wherever the party is in power in the country, people are fed up with its misgovernance," he said. Referring to the recent local body elections in Himachal Pradesh, where the Congress is in power, Mr. Modi claimed that the party had suffered setbacks.

"The people of Himachal Pradesh are fed up with its misgovernance. Earlier, the people of Haryana and Punjab also gave a clear message to the Congress that its parasitic politics will no longer work," he said.

Furthering development: Prime Minister Narendra Modi reviews ongoing industrial operations and infrastructure projects during his visit to Hazira, in Surat, on Friday. PTI

Taking a swipe at the recent leadership change in Karnataka, where D.K. Shivakumar was sworn in as Chief Minister earlier this week after replacing Siddaramaiah, Mr. Modi said that public dissatisfaction had forced the party to make the change.

Additionally, referring to the Assembly election in West Bengal, Mr. Modi said the results reflected public rejection of "chaos, uncertainty and despair". "The message is clear that the country does not accept chaos, uncertainty and despair," he said.

Vision for Gujarat

The Prime Minister also criticised those who question the concept of Atmanirbhar Bharat and India's development vision. "Some people continue to ridicule the idea of Atmanirbhar Bharat and question the country's development vision. They are the ones who, in the past, kept India dependent on other nations and failed to understand that true development cannot be achieved by countries that rely on others," he said.

Referring to the ongoing global energy crisis arising from tensions involving Iran and the U.S., Mr. Modi said the situation highlighted the importance of self-reliance in the energy sector. Mr. Modi said that Gujarat had made a significant contribution to India's energy security through investments in refining, solar energy, and wind power. Highlighting India's renewable energy growth, the Prime Minister said the country's installed renewable energy capacity had reached 250 GW, of which Gujarat accounted for 50 GW. He said Gujarat was to play a major role in India's ambitions in green hydrogen and green ammonia.

Review of operations

Earlier, the Prime Minister visited Larsen & Toubro's Hazira facility in Surat, where he reviewed ongoing industrial and infrastructure operations at the company's manufacturing complex. During the visit, he toured the A.M. Naik Heavy Engineering Complex and was briefed by company officials on various projects.

Mr. Modi was also shown the 'Zorawar' light tank and other defence equipment manufactured at the plant. The 25-tonne air-transportable tank has been jointly developed by the DRDO and L&T Defence for rapid deployment, particularly along India's border with China.

HC refuses urgent hearing on plea against CJP protest

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday refused to hear a petition raising law and order concerns arising from digital outfit Cockroach Janta Party (CJP)'s call for a protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Saturday. Counsel for 'Save India Foundation' mentioned the plea for an urgent hearing before a vacation Bench of Justices Saurabh Banerjee and Amit Sharma. The Bench, however, refused to list the case.

Earlier this month, CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke called on supporters to join the protest in Delhi to demand the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over alleged examination-related lapses. The party, which is a youth-driven social media movement, has gained much traction since its formation.

The petitioner sought directions to the authorities to "restrict, regulate, or relocate the scheduled gathering" to maintain public order. The plea alleged that the CJP had turned the youth into an "unregulated contingent" by "utilising overseas-tethered servers to execute a transnational institutional destabilisation agenda".

Man beaten, hung upside down in a well in Haryana

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

A 32-year-old Scheduled Caste (SC) man was allegedly beaten and hung upside down in a well by upper caste men in Hansi, Haryana. The men alleged that he had stolen a motor from a field, the police said on Friday. A case has been registered at the Bas Police Station.

The victim, Baru, a resident of Sorkhi village, is a steel gate and door fabricator. In his statement to the police, he said the assault took place on June 1 around 12.30 p.m. while he was travelling from Sorkhi to Bhatol.

In a two-minute video, the accused are seen tying the man with ropes, hanging him upside down in a well and assaulting him to extract a confession.

PFI members charged under UAPA for conspiracy to overthrow govt.

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Friday ordered the framing of charges against 25 people associated with the banned Popular Front of India (PFI), including its chairman, holding that the investigation so far has disclosed a "grave suspicion" of a conspiracy to overthrow India's secular democratic government and establish an Islamic caliphate governed by Sharia law by 2047.

Additional Sessions Judge Prashant Sharma of the Patiala House Courts directed that charges be framed under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) against the accused including PFI chairman O.M.A. Salam, vice-chairman E.M. Abdul Rahiman, general secretary Anis Ahmed, founding chairman E. Abubacker, founding PFI National Executive Council (NEC) member P. Koya, NEC member Mohammed Ali Jinnah and several other national and State-level functionaries.

E. Abubacker

Multi-level conspiracy

According to the order, some members were involved in strategic decision-making at the NEC level, while others handled State-level execution, recruitment, arms training, terror financing and support activities linked to the Islamic State (ISIS).

The court referred to several meetings relied upon by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to establish what it described as a "meeting of minds" among the accused. Among the events cited were the 2018 Leadership Eligibility Course in Pune; a 2017 NEC meeting in Aurangabad; and a review visit to Hyderabad in 2021. The order also mentions meetings held during the Shaheen Bagh protests in Delhi in 2021, interactions relating to the organisation's Mohalla Committee initiative in Madurai, and gatherings at Freedom Hall and Mithur in Karnataka.

A key piece of evidence cited by the court was the confidential "Vision 2047" document, which the prosecution alleged outlined the organisation's long-term objective of establishing Islamic rule in India.

During the hearings, Special Public Prosecutor Rahul Tyagi alleged that the organisation had sought to radicalise Muslim youth and promote hostility towards Hindus. He argued that the PFI had concealed its objectives behind welfare activities.

The defence challenged the prosecution's claims by comparing the PFI with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and contended that if the latter could advocate for a 'Hindu Rashtra', the PFI could not be faulted for expressing support for an Islamic nation.

The Centre had banned the PFI and its affiliates in 2022 under the UAPA.

Coal mine collapse in M.P. leaves 2 dead, 4 injured

Press Trust of India
SHAHDOL

Two workers were killed and four injured on Friday after a portion of the roof collapsed inside an underground coal mine operated by the South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) in Madhya Pradesh's Shahdol district.

The accident occurred at the Bangwar coal mine in SECL's Sohagpur area where workers were engaged in constructing a stopping wall, Dhanpuri Police Station House Officer (SHO) Khem Singh Pendro said. "Workers Ballu Baiga (43) and Golu Baiga (30) died in the incident. The injured have been admitted to hospital. Rescue teams, mine management personnel and safety officials rushed to the spot," the SHO said.

Police book 'Khan Sir' in firing case; govt. to curb coaching rivalry

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

Political leaders in Bihar blamed the incident on rivalry between coaching institute owners

Patna-based educator and YouTuber Faisal Khan, popularly known as "Khan Sir", was booked by the police on Friday and questioned over a firing episode in the Bihar capital earlier this week.

On the night of June 2, around 20 people vandalised his coaching institute, Khan Global Studies, and brutally attacked a security guard. Following the incident, Mr. Khan's two bodyguards fired in the air. The bodyguards were arrested and Mr. Khan was named in an FIR. Earlier, three persons, including the owner of a rival coaching institute, were arrested over the attack on Mr. Khan's centre. Members of the rival institute, Gyan Bindu coaching centre, blamed Mr. Khan for orchestrating the attack.

Mr. Khan had praised the police for acting promptly on the issue. "Some anti-social elements from a nearby coaching institute carried out widespread damage... and even fired gunshots," Mr. Khan told mediapersons.

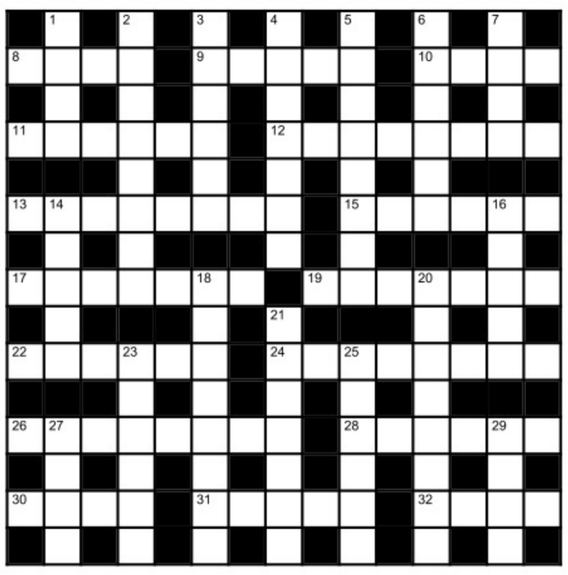
Political leaders blamed the incident on rivalry between coaching institute owners. "The State government will formulate a policy within the next three months to prevent such rivalry and the resultant law and order problems," said State Education Minister Mithilesh Tiwari.

TH CROSSWORD + 14813

(set by Incognito)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Damage hot weapon (4)
9 Ms Lamb has right to get hitched (5)
10 Swear in Damascus, Syria (4)
11 Silly ass takes a moment to get a snack (6)
12 Tense, perhaps, before sire manufactured baked goods (8)
13 Sculpture tray at US building (8)
15 Convent head hugs boys in entrance after Catholics leave (6)
17 Author Pearl protects a couple of students with love for animal (7)
19 Start from actor Kelly and sister (7)
22 Small ring of light accompanied Mike's greeting (6)
24 One parliamentarian wandered and got better (8)
26 Around end of March, aide with lawmaker gets permit to produce tract (8)
28 Code creator takes large bite of food (6)
30 Repeat twice, "Extinct creature" (4)
31 The driver is unable to steer this mode of transport (5)
32 Animal sound from Anantapur region (4)

Down

1 Information from armada taped (4)
2 Eternally living tailor stitched around a small measure of length (8)
3 Alcoholics Anonymous accepts minced lamb in city (6)
4 Drunken sapper going around end of July settles dues in advance (7)
5 Wrongly see heady cosmetic (8)
6 Beetle disturbs a crab after commencement of sunset (6)
7 Insular land in Memphis leased (4)
14 Feel model accompanied by cry (5)
16 Point at small picture by European showing flavouring substance (5)
18 Utter, "Finish" (8)
20 Silly herpetologists dropping hotels in displays of narcissism (3,5)
21 Michigan salt spread around top of rim gives wind! (7)
23 Friend returns, rejecting god, to become subservient person (6)
25 Maiden in erstwhile Pune is a Greek goddess (6)
27 River covered by Miroslav Ondricek (4)
29 Cad going away from Ecuador counterfeiting money (4)

SUDOKU

7	8				2			
3					7	5	8	
		5	4		9			
9		2		3				
	3						7	
				4		2		8
			2		4	6		
	4	1	8					2
			6				5	4

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

No.SS6903 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

H	A	S	S	L	E	D	I	A
E	U	E	R	A	H	I		
A	E	R	I	A	L	C	A	S
T	G	D	S	N	A	S	S	
P	R	E	V	I	E	W	S	A
U	O	N	E	T	A	S	A	
M	E	N	A	G	E	A	T	R
P	S	Q	R	E	N	T	P	
C	U	P	B	O	A	R	D	L
P	G	E	Y	S	O	M	N	
U	N	R	E	S	T	C	O	G
N	O	T	G	N	E	Y	A	
J	E	T	T	I	S	O	N	A
A	T	O	O		I	O	E	
B	R	O	W	N	I	N	G	N

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	7	9	4	5	3	1	6	8
6	1	3	9	2	8	5	7	4
4	8	5	1	6	7	3	9	2
1	5	6	7	8	9	2	4	3
9	4	7	5	3	2	8	1	6
8	3	2	6	4	1	9	5	7
7	6	8	2	9	5	4	3	1
5	2	1	3	7	4	6	8	9
3	9	4	8	1	6	7	2	5

FAITH

Venerate enlightened men

Caught in the cycle of rebirth, it is very common to come across devotees who express contrition and seek ways to negate their sins. Bathing in holy rivers such as the Ganga, undertaking penance or working hard to make others prosperous in a dharmic way are the usual avenues pursued to find inner peace. The same can also be attained by cultivating the company of venerable men, said S. Sarma.

Scriptures say when a person invites a spiritually evolved personage home and welcomes him with due honour, the environment takes on a different vibe, which will have a positive impact on not only the host but all the others who keep him company. Divine grace is exuded by the saintly person resulting in an overpouring of devotion in the host and his associates. The Bhagavatam is replete with examples of such benefits derived by welcoming the spiritually evolved.

The other recommendation is the study of sacred literature at various points of time. Ideally, one should read the epic on gambling (the Mahabharata) in the forenoon, about the outcome of passion (the Ramayana) in the afternoon and about the activities of a 'thief' (Lord Krishna who steals the heart of a devotee) via the Bhagavatam which details the incarnation of Krishna, in the evenings.

Parikshit was a powerful king and yet, due to an unwitting mistake was cursed to die within seven days. Rather than lament his fate, he chose to seek the company of a wise sage and listen to the exposition of Bhagavatam. The sacred text says bhakti is a value attainable by an ordinary man. In fact, bhakti is held to be superior to mukti (merging in the Divine).

INBRIEF

Vietnam's VinGroup launches taxi service in Delhi-NCR

Vietnamese conglomerate VinGroup, with interests spanning automobiles, real estate, technology, healthcare and education, has launched an all-electric taxi service using its auto company VinFast's cars, marking its entry into India's ride-hailing market. Called Green SM Limo, the service was launched on Friday and will initially operate across parts of Delhi-NCR with a fleet of 1,000 company-owned vehicles. The firm plans to gradually expand its coverage and enter other cities in line with customer demand. Bookings can be made through a smartphone app or in operational zones

E85 to be about ₹20 per litre cheaper than E20, says Puri

E85 fuel, that is, fuel containing 80-85% ethanol and 15-20% motor gasoline, will be approximately ₹20 per litre cheaper than the E20 variant, Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said at the launch of the latest fuel variant. "I think we have consciously structured the pricing to ensure consumers are more than adequately compensated - for any lack in calorific value or anything - by making E85 approximately ₹20 per litre cheaper than E20." At the time of writing, the E85 variant in Delhi was priced at ₹82.12/litre. He also clarified the E85 fuel was meant for specially designed flex fuel vehicles with compatible engines.

Coal India to offer 35 MTs to non-regulated sector

State-owned Coal India informed on Friday that it would be putting on offer 35 million tonnes (MTs) of high gross-calorific value (GCV) under the linkage auction window to be held June 12. The miner underlined the objective was to reduce the import of the high-GCV coal which is primarily consumed by the sponge iron sector. The Kolkata-headquartered miner also stated that it has allowed steel (coking) sub-sectors to sell coal middling, which are power-grade coal and acquired as residual by-products of washed raw coking coal, in a move that would further address the import dependency. In the current tranche of auction, Coal India has offered 13.75 MT of coal to the steel sub-sector.

MPC retains repo rate, lowers growth forecast

Repo rate unchanged at 5.25%; real GDP growth projected at 6.6%, down by 0.3% from the earlier projection of 6.9% for FY27; CPI inflation projected to be at 5.1% 50 bps more than the earlier one

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

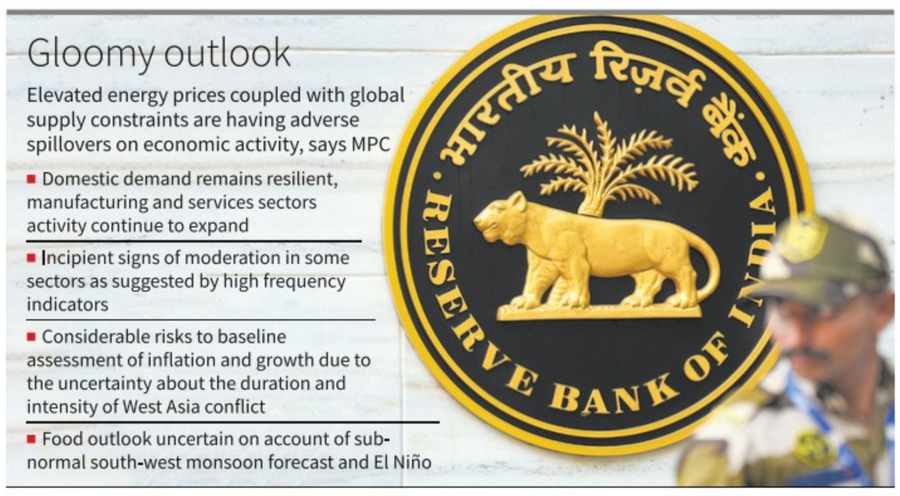
The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday voted unanimously to keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 5.25%. Consequently, the standing deposit facility (SDF) rate remains at 5% and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the bank rate at 5.50%.

The MPC also decided to continue with its neutral stance.

"The committee noted that the global environment has deteriorated since the last policy meeting with the conflict lingering amidst a fragile truce. The adverse implications of the extended disruption in supply chains and elevated energy prices are reflected in the moderation of growth and increase in inflation projections from the April policy," RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said in a statement.

Stating that CPI inflation remained below the target despite global shock as the pass through to domestic prices had been limited, he said baseline projections pointed towards headline inflation firming up towards the upper tolerance level in Q3 2026-27 and the impact of the supply shock would wane Q4 onwards.

"The underlying inflation pressures continue to remain benign at this juncture. However, generalisation of inflation through second-round effects on expectations and wages is a distinct possibility, warranting a close vigil. The outlook also remains clouded due to the sub-normal south-west monsoon forecast and El Niño risks," Mr. Malhotra said.


Gloomy outlook
Elevated energy prices coupled with global supply constraints are having adverse spillovers on economic activity, says MPC
Domestic demand remains resilient, manufacturing and services sectors activity continue to expand
Incipient signs of moderation in some sectors as suggested by high frequency indicators
Considerable risks to baseline assessment of inflation and growth due to the uncertainty about the duration and intensity of West Asia conflict
Food outlook uncertain on account of sub-normal south-west monsoon forecast and El Niño
भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

Central bank announces host of measures to attract foreign capital

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

To attract foreign capital the RBI on Friday announced several measures. For government securities under the Fully Accessible Route (FAR), the RBI said it was expanding the universe of 'specified securities' by including all new issuances of 15, 30 and 40-year tenor G-secs.

Additionally, limits on short-term investments, concentration and individual securities on FPI investment under the General Route are being removed. "These measures should help attract foreign capital for government borrowing," the RBI Governor said.

The RBI has also decided to increase the limits for investment by NRIs and OCIs in equity instruments traded on the stock market without SEBI registration.

As for growth, the MPC noted that elevated energy prices coupled with global supply constraints are having adverse spillovers on economic activity.

"While domestic demand remains resilient and manufacturing and services sectors activity continue to expand, there are incipient signs of moderation in some sectors as suggested by high frequency indicators," he stated.

He said the MPC was of the opinion that there were considerable risks to the baseline assessment of inflation and growth due to the uncertainty about the duration and intensity of the conflict, magnitude of its spillover effects, and the pace of restoration of supply chains. "Additionally, the food outlook remains uncertain on account of the sub-normal south-west monsoon forecast and El Niño. Although risks of higher inflation have amplified, the MPC felt it would be prudent to wait for greater clarity to emerge," he said.

Stating that overall, the economic situation had broadly exhibited resilience and withstood the conflict spillovers, he said the impact of cost pressure was becoming visible.

"The rise in prices of energy and other inputs, coupled with supply disruptions, is likely to weigh on economic activity. While import diversification in affected commodities is likely to improve supply, it would come at a higher cost," he said.

"The full impact, however, will depend on the duration of the conflict, time taken for normalisation of supply chains and the burden-sharing approach among the stakeholders," he added.

Real GDP growth for 2026-27 is projected at 6.6% down from earlier projection of 6.9% with Q1 at 6.6%; Q2 at 6.3%; Q3 at 6.5%; and Q4 at 6.8%.

CPI inflation for 2026-27 is projected to be at 5.1% which is 50 basis points more than the earlier projection.

'Our economy is on a strong footing, we are in a far better condition'

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Sanjay Malhotra

India's economic condition is very 'strong, capable and healthy' despite the adverse impact of the West Asia conflict and the global uncertainties, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra said during the post Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting press conference on Friday.

"There is a global shock and in that India is not alone. All countries are affected. However, as far as India's economic condition is concerned, we are comparatively, compared with other countries and similar shocks, today better placed. Our economic strength has increased. We are having a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of about 6.5% and no major country has this type of growth," he said.

He, however, said inflation would increase in line with rise in fuel prices.

"But we expect it will not last long. Our financial strength is robust, our economy is growing, our banks are strong and capable and India's corporate sector's balance sheet is very healthy. Our foreign exchange reserves are enough and it can take care of 11 months of imports. Overall, we are in a far better condition," he emphasised.

He said the RBI was confident that it would deal with the current situation effectively and in turning the crisis into an opportunity, the country would emerge stronger so that such crisis and shocks would be faced effectively.

Asked if the situation had changed from last month when Prime Minister Narendra Modi had urged citizens not to embark on overseas travel, postpone buying gold, work from home, do car pooling and reduce fuel consumption, he said, "It is important for all of us to be prudent, to be judicious, not be wasteful. That message I think he gave and it should be taken in that spirit."

Answering another question on what concerned RBI the most, he said, "It's the duration of the conflict and the time it would take for the restoration of supply chains. The major risk is what impact it will have on prices and for how long."

"Other than this, the worries are concerning monsoon and El Nino," he added. In the current year's inflation forecast, the RBI has assumed the price of crude at $95 per barrel so the projected inflation is higher.

Earlier in the day, despite all major central banks gearing up to tighten monetary policy, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted unanimously to hold the policy repo rate at 5.25% and to maintain a neutral stance.

Since the pass through of higher fuel prices is visible now across sectors, the MPC reduced its growth forecast for FY27 to 6.6% from 6.9% and raised inflation expectation to 5.1%, which is 50 bps higher than its earlier projection.

No LTCG tax on FIIs' govt. bond investments

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Government of India (GoI) promulgated an ordinance waiving the 12.5% long term capital gains (LTCG) tax on foreign institutional investments (FII) in government bonds.

The exemption will take effect from April 1, 2026. "Recognising the importance of a competitive tax regime in attracting global capital, the Government decided to rationalise tax treatment on investments by FPIs in Government Securities," it said.

This comes at a time when FIIs sold ₹2.5 lakh crore worth of Indian securities, as per NSDL data.

"This would make Indian government securities more tax-efficient for overseas investors," said CA Chandni Anandan of ClearTax

"The two pools of capital are different investors with different return expectations. Making gilts cheaper to own does not address why long-only equity investors have been cautious on India. Capital gains structure, currency risk, valuation premium ... that is where the silence is. The real ask from foreign investors has been on equities. That is unanswered," said Sachin Sawrikar, founder, Artha Bharat Investment Managers.

'To boost banking, regulators have to be accessible'

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
MADRID

Joe Wilson

Indian regulators need to be more accessible and approachable to encourage deeper banking penetration and private sector activity in the banking sector, said Joe Wilson of Bunq, a Netherlands-headquartered unicorn non-banking financial company.

Speaking on the sidelines of the South Summit 2026, co-organised by IE University here, Mr. Wilson, previously COO and now 'chief evangelist' of Bunq, told *The Hindu* there were some regulations and practices in the European Union (EU) that India could fruitfully emulate.

"I think the relationship with regulatory agencies in the EU is very important," Mr. Wilson said. "My experience with India was not in a regulated area, but I do understand there's quite a lot of long distance relationship, meaning you submit things and then someone looks at it and sends it back to you, like a teacher grading your paper.

"That relationship is very slow for innovation," he added. "In certain countries in the EU, like the Netherlands or others, you can engage with these regulatory groups directly. You can email, you can have phone calls, you can set up meetings quite quickly. That relationship speeds innovation faster than almost anything else. People get to understand both sides of any issue."

Policy on cryptos

The other aspect the EU has implemented that India could benefit from is the policy on cryptocurrencies and stable coins, Mr. Wilson explained. The EU in 2023 implemented its Markets in Crypto-Assets (MiCA) regulation.

The regulation provides a comprehensive legal framework for standardising cryptocurrency rules across EU, including licensing requirements for crypto asset service providers, issuers, reserve rules for stablecoins and consumer protection standards.

(*The reporter is in Madrid at the invitation of IE University*)

OIL reports natural gas in Andaman offshore block

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

State-owned explorer-producer Oil India Ltd. (OIL) confirmed the presence of natural gas in the third exploratory well it drilled, that is, Vijayapuram-3, in the Andaman shallow offshore block.

With this, OIL has established hydrocarbon presence in two of the three exploratory wells it has drilled in the block so far. It had earlier reported the occurrence of natural gas in the second exploratory well September last year.

In a statement, the explorer-producer said, "Initial production testing of the well at the depth of 1,900 plus meter in the Eocene formation has established the presence of natural gas through continuous flaring," adding, "Post perforation, immediate pressure build up was observed and well started to produce."

Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said, "presence of natural gas will help us take forward exploration ambitions in coordination with global deepwater exploration experts like Petrobras, TotalEnergies, BP India, Shell and ExxonMobil."

OIL said it already started the appraisal programme for the second exploratory well.

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR
No. : NIT/2026-27/2893-2901 Date : 04/06/2026
अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 143/2026-27
निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए केन्द्र / राज्य सरकार के अभियांत्रिकी विभागों एवं उनके अधिकृत संगठनों में पंजीकृत एवं अनुभवी संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है

कार्य का विवरण	कार्य की कुल अनुमानित लागत (रु.)
Additional work at OPD Building MDM, Jodhpur. (RCI). **UBN: RRC2627WSOB00233**	221.14 Lakh

निविदा से सम्बन्धित प्रपत्र में निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, डाउनलोड करने व खोलने की तारीख सहित सम्पूर्ण विवरण एवं संशोधन वेबसाईट: **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.nic.in** तथा **http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in/rsrdc** पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है। **महाप्रबंधक**

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Tender Notice No.15/2026-27/CE(GVMC)/SE(W-II)/EE (PW-MDW)/DB, dt. 03-06-2026
Number of works : 01 Work, Value of work: Rs.3,38,90,269.00
Starting Date : Dt.04-06-2026, Ending Date: 19-06-2026.
Note: Further details at **http://www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in**
O/o. the EE(PW-MDW) Cell No. 99480 95518 **For Commissioner**

Government of Rajasthan
Office of the Project Director, Rajasthan Government Health Scheme
(Rajasthan State Health Assurance Agency, Medical & Health Department)
2nd Floor, D-Block, Vitta Bhawan, Janpath, Jaipur
email:pd.rghs@rajasthan.gov.in Ph. No. 0141-2740252
File No. 1258 Date: 22.05.2026
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST(EOI)
EOI No. 01/2026-27
Expression of Interest for Empanelment of Medicine Delivery Logistrics Service Providers for Dawa Apke Dwar(दवा आपके द्वार/Doorstep of Delivery of Medicines) under RGHS are invited from interested service providers from 01-06-2026 to 30-06-2026 up to 06:00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be accessed on the RGHS portal (https://rghs.rajasthan.gov.in) and State Public Procurement Portal (https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state.
UBN: MHS2627RFP0003
Additional Chief Executive Officer, RGHS
DIPR/C/9525/2026 **(Rajasthan State Health Assurance Agency)**

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS - TIRUPATI
MARKETING DEPARTMENT e-Procurement Tender Notice
e-Tenders are invited for supply of **(1) 4,50,000 Bundles (each bundle 100 Nos) of Leaf cups (small) (2) 63,00,000 Nos. of Leaf food bowls (with leaf foil) (3) 45,00,000 Nos. of Paper Food Bowls (with silver Foil) (4) 3,60,000 Kgs of Cashew Wholes (W320 Variety)** through e-tenders to the Marketing Department, T.T.Devasthanams,. For Tender notice and tender details log on to the web site **http:// www.tirumala.org** and **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.**
For further details contact phone numbers: **0877-2264079, 2264555,** FAX No: **0877-2264554.**
TTD-40021(31)/1/2026-PRO SEC(Adv.No.69) Date:05-06-2026 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2945600, 2945646
E-mail : edrugs.kmscl@kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616
No.KMSCL/ED/12/2026 Date: 05.06.2026
E- TENDER NOTICE
Online bids are invited for the procurement of Drug for Rare Diseases for Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Kerala vide e-tender no KMSCL/ED/RD-SAT-1/RC/2026/015 dated 05.06.2026

Sl. No.	Name of Item	Qty.	Last Date & time of Uploading of tender	Date & time of Technical Bid opening
1.	**IMIGLUCERASE FOR INJ.** (400 units vial)	120	**20.06.26 5.00 pm.**	**22.06.2026 11.00 am.**

Tender documents can be downloaded from the website **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**.
(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

भारतीय वानिकी अनुसंधान एवं शिक्षा परिषद्
Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education
पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार की एक स्वायत्त निकाय्
(An autonomous body of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India)
पो० ऑ० न्यू फॉरेस्ट, देहरादून–248006 (उत्तराखण्ड)
P.O. New Forest, Dehradun-248006 (Uttarakhand)
तिथि विस्तार सूचना
विज्ञप्ति संख्या 02/32–1/2026/महानिदेशक–भा०वा०अ०शि०प०
DATE EXTENSION NOTICE
Advt. No. 02/32-1/2026/Director General- ICFRE
महानिदेशक, भा०वा०अ०शि०प० के पद के लिए आमंत्रित आवेदन प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि जो कि 01.06.2026 थी को आगे दिनांक **01.07.2026** तक विस्तारित कर दिया गया है, अन्य नियम और शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।
The last date of receipt of applications invited for post of Director General, ICFRE which was 01.06.2026 is hereby extended till **01.07.2026**, other terms and conditions remains the same.
सचिव, भा०वा०अ०शि०प०
Secretary, ICFRE

Kalyan Singh Super Specialty Cancer Institute
C.G. City, Sultanpur Road, Lucknow-226002
(An Autonomous Institute of the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh)
Website: https://cancerinstitute.edu.in Email: jdmm.sscih@gmail.com
GeM Bid Notice Date :03.06.2026
It is hereby informed that a bids No. is as follow: -

Sr. No.	Name of Service	Bid No. & Date	Pre-bid Meeting Date & Time
1	**Operation And Maintenance of Fire Fighting System - Complete System**	GEM/2026/B/7610050 Dated 03.06.2026	Not Applicable

The Bid uploaded on GeM Portal for Procurement of Service Bid at KSSSCI. All interested service providers / bidders are required to submit their bids on GeM Portal in accordance with the terms and conditions of the GeM bid documents. The Director reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.
The Tender documents are available on the website of the Institute **www.cancerinstitute.edu.in**
Advt No. KSSSCI/Tender -06/2026-27 **DIRECTOR**

FLUID CONTROL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(Under Ministry of Heavy Industries, Govt. of India)
Kanjikode West, Palakkad – 678 623, Kerala, India
Phone: 0491-2566120/2566206, Fax: 0491-2566326
Email: purchase@fcriindia.com, Website: http://www.fcriindia.com
TENDER NOTICE
NO. PUR/FCRI/25114/25115/2025-26 Dated June 4, 2026
Competitive tenders are invited from reputed manufacturers / suppliers through GeM Portal for the following:

Sl. No.	GeM Bid No.	Item Description	EMD
1	GEM/2026/B/7311622	Supply, installation, integration, testing and commissioning of Gravimetric Primary Gas Flow Calibration Standard (GPGFC) and Successive Addition System (for Traceability expansion) at FCRI - 1 Set	1,00,000/-
2	GEM/2026/B/7313281	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Secondary Gas Flow Calibration Standard (Molblocs) at FCRI - 1 Set	1,00,000/-

The Tender Form can be obtained from GeM Portal/ FCRI Website **www.fcriindia.com/tenders**. Participation on Tender through GeM Portal only.
Last date of receipt of Tender: **20th June 2026**.
Sd/- DIRECTOR

THE HINDU HUDDLE 2026

Rapt attention: Delegates listening to a session at The Hindu Huddle in Bengaluru on Friday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The mind's eye: Mentalist Naman Anand in action during the 'Mind Games' session on Friday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Seeking insight: A student asking a question to Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the event. K. MURALI KUMAR

Creative showcase: Spectators viewing artworks on display at The Hindu Huddle on Friday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Student huddle focuses on linking skills with degrees

Young minds: Students with Vinaya Deshpande Pandit, Chief of Bureau, Maharashtra, *The Hindu*. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A panel discussion on 'Degree or skills, what will matter in the future?' in the student huddle organised as part of The Hindu Huddle in Bengaluru on Friday turned into an incisive and critical analysis of the education system and the job market in the country.

The panellists felt that there was an urgent need to integrate degrees with skills, as skills were important, but degrees could not be discarded.

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit, Chief of Bureau, Maharashtra, *The Hindu*, who moderated the session, raised the issue of what would matter to young people in the coming days – formal education or skills learnt by candidates on or off the course.

Aditi Singh, a management student from Amity University, said emphatically that she believed that 'skills before degree' was the way ahead. Anishka Chandra, studying biotechnology, said she believed skills were important, but she would not discard the importance of degrees.

Abd Ur Rehman Mujahid, a graduate student of medicine, Khaja Bandanawaz University, Kalaburagi said the relative importance of degrees or skills was highly sector-specific, as some fields required degrees while others required skills.

Premika Vallabhaneni, a post-graduate student of pathology, KBN University, felt that both degrees and skills were important, but there was a need to integrate them seamlessly.

Abrogation of Article 370 was Centre's biggest policy mistake: Omar Abdullah

Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister demands restoration of statehood and seeks clarity on timeline, parameters on which decision will be made; he says 'One Nation, One Election' will be difficult to implement in diverse country like India, and calls for more South Indian movies to be shot in Valley

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
BENGALURU

Illuminating discourse: Omar Abdullah, Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, in conversation with Narayan Lakshman, Opinion Editor, *The Hindu*, and Curator, The Hindu Huddle, in Bengaluru on Friday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Seeking the restoration of statehood for Jammu & Kashmir, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday said the abrogation of Article 370 was the biggest policy mistake made by the Union government. "You have already made it, in 2019," he said, when asked about errors the government could make in the Valley in the next decade.

Mr. Abdullah was in conversation with Dr. Narayan Lakshman, Opinion Editor, *The Hindu*, and Curator, The Hindu Huddle, in a session titled "Beyond the Valley: the role of Kashmir in great power politics".

In a candid conversation on myriad issues, Mr. Abdullah reflected on the geo-strategic significance of Jammu and Kashmir, perception about Muslim youth of the valley, impact of the West Asia conflict, and the complex issues affecting the Union Territory. He spoke about the connection the Union government had drawn between development and abrogation of Article 370, and said that the two were not related.

"The clauses in Article 370 were never a cause of lack of development in Jammu and Kashmir. It has suffered due to 30-35 years of violence. The fact that Jammu and Kashmir was perceived as an unsafe place, is what we paid the price of," he said, adding that there are several other States where different rules were applicable at the regional level.

'Different systems'

"The BJP had said that we can't have two different systems in the same country. That was the stick used to beat us. But there are other places where you can't buy land, or face other restrictions. It is a part of politics of the BJP. And we are suffering because of it," the Chief Minister said.

Questioning the Bharatiya Janata Party over the alleged commitment of the Prime Minister, which he referred to as 'Modi *ka wada*', Mr. Abdullah sought statehood for J&K. He wanted the Union government to clarify the parameters on which it would take the decision and a stipulated time frame. "It was a commitment that delimitation will be followed by election, and that Statehood will follow. But it is nowhere to be seen. We don't know when the appropriate time will be. How are we supposed to gauge the appropriate time," he asked.

On one election pitch

When the audience asked him about 'One Nation, One Election', he said that it was realistically difficult to make it work in a diverse country like India. He highlighted the distrust among regional parties about its motive and questioned the implementation in States where the government may fall before completing its term.

"Realistically, how do you implement it for a country as diverse as ours with State governments that are so different in conditions where there is no fixed term," he said.

Mr. Abdullah said that there were not enough visitors from the South of the Vindhyas to Jammu and Kashmir. "Tourism often follows movies. Look at what happened to Switzerland, thanks in part to Yash Chopra's films. We would love to see more South Indian films shot in Kashmir. These days, your films seem to be doing better than Bollywood's, and you have bigger budgets. So, I hope more films from the south are shot in Kashmir in the future," the Chief Minister said.

In India, protection of nature also means safeguarding culture: Jairam

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Biodiversity concerns: Jairam Ramesh, Rajya Sabha MP; Gargi Rawat, Consulting Editor, NDTV; and Dr. Krithi Karanth, CEO, Centre for Wildlife Studies, in Bengaluru on Friday. K. MURALI KUMAR

To think you can deforest in Nicobar and manage its ecological impact by doing some compensatory afforestation in Haryana is a bogus argument, Jairam Ramesh, Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member, said at the session titled 'From the Aravallis to the Nicobar: at the edge of ecology' at The Hindu Huddle in Bengaluru on Friday.

Pointing out that Nicobar is a unique biodiversity spot, the former Union Environment Minister criticised the government for allowing the clearing of forest areas that should never be deforested.

Cultural significance

"Large parts of Central India, which is the rich forest bowl of India, are under threat... We are seeing loss of forests and biodiversity that is known and unknown in Odisha, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Nicobar," he said.

Taking the example of the protests that happened against Bauxite mining in Niyamgiri, he said that in many parts of India, people feel attached to their lands not just because of livelihoods, but because of their cultural traditions.

"Democracy ultimately is about protecting the smallest of the small. If a particular community says that this is integral to my culture, then it is incumbent upon us to protect that culture. Because in India, unlike in many other parts of the world, when we protect nature, we also protect culture," he said.

However, he also acknowledged that governments have compulsions to create jobs and attract investments and said that the trade-off between environment and development has to be a democratic, give and take process.

"In environment and development, you cannot satisfy all sides. The only policy that works is balanced dissatisfaction," he said.

"But going hand in hand means making difficult choices. There are certain situations where you will have to choose development because jobs are involved, investments are involved, and organisations are involved. However, there are instances where you have to say, 'no, we will protect the environment at all costs," he said.

Dr. Krithi Karanth, CEO, Centre for Wildlife Studies, who took part in the conversation, raised concerns that Indians, although they celebrate their language, culture, and history, do not celebrate the country's wildlife despite India being one of the 17 mega biodiverse countries in the world.

"We're forgetting that we are not the only Indians in the room. There are tigers, elephants, hornbills, the Narcondam hornbill, and a multitude of amphibians, butterflies and insects yet to be discovered," she said.

While noting that in many parts of India, including Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra, the wildlife numbers have gone up, she said that there are large parts of India that are in deep trouble. "The Great Indian Bustard is going to go in our lifetime...," she warned.

Human-animal conflicts

With regards to human-animal conflicts, Dr. Karanth stressed that solutions have to be based on science and data, and required deep local community commitment.

"We now have high densities of animals, but we have huge cultural, social problems for wildlife in rural India...Urban Indians don't make decisions that matter for tiger, elephants, rural Indians do; and I think we have to empower rural Indians to solve the conflict," she added.

Envoys stress need for rules-based global order and economic integration

Appaji Reddem
BENGALURU

Global ties: Philip Green, Australian High Commissioner; Nirupama Rao, former Indian Foreign Secretary and diplomat; Hervé Delphin, EU Ambassador; and Suhasini Haidar, Diplomatic Affairs Editor, *The Hindu,* in Bengaluru on Friday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Envoys of the European Union (EU), Australia, and a former Indian Foreign Secretary, who were panellists at a session of The Hindu Huddle, emphasised the need for a rules-based international order and economic integration. In this context, the growing India-EU and India-Australia partnerships were highlighted as major drivers of future cooperation.

Hervé Delphin, EU Ambassador to India, in an interaction with Suhasini Haidar, Diplomatic Affairs Editor, *The Hindu,* over domination of middle powers and major powers, said the EU wants to work together with those considered agents of change for cooperation, and rejected the terminology "middle powers" as it "boxes" people or countries in different categories. Instead of categorisation, he said the focus should be on countries with intent, capability and willingness to cooperate.

"We are in an era of paradox and polarisation which would assumingly necessitate more cooperation than ever," he said. He said that India could play a constructive role in conflict resolution due to its unique relationships with multiple actors.

Philip Green, Australian High Commissioner to India, said the rules-based order remained largely intact and is governing trade, shipping, telecommunications and international business, and stressed on the need to strengthen the order. "Rather than worry about the world where rules don't exist, we need to protect the rules that exist and try to build them on," Mr. Green said.

Speaking about diplomacy and India's role in international politics, former Indian Foreign Secretary and diplomat Nirupama Rao said the choice has been to maintain influence and dialogue. With growing global instability, India, Japan, and Australia have greater responsibility within the Indo-Pacific.

"India should continue acting as a pivotal power rather than joining a rigid bloc," Ms. Rao said.

India's current approach should be viewed against its long-standing West Asia policy. India's historical sympathy and support for the Palestinian cause remain important, she added.

Naman Anand captivates the crowd with 'Mind Games'

Anagha Maareesha
BENGALURU

Day 1 of The Hindu Huddle was packed with thought-provoking sessions, and it concluded with a performance by mentalist Naman Anand, whose session titled 'Mind Games' took the audience through a mind-bending experience of illusions and tricks.

Popularly known as Bollywood's favourite mind reader, Mr. Anand has performed for personalities ranging from Shah Rukh Khan and the Ambani family to IPL cricket teams.

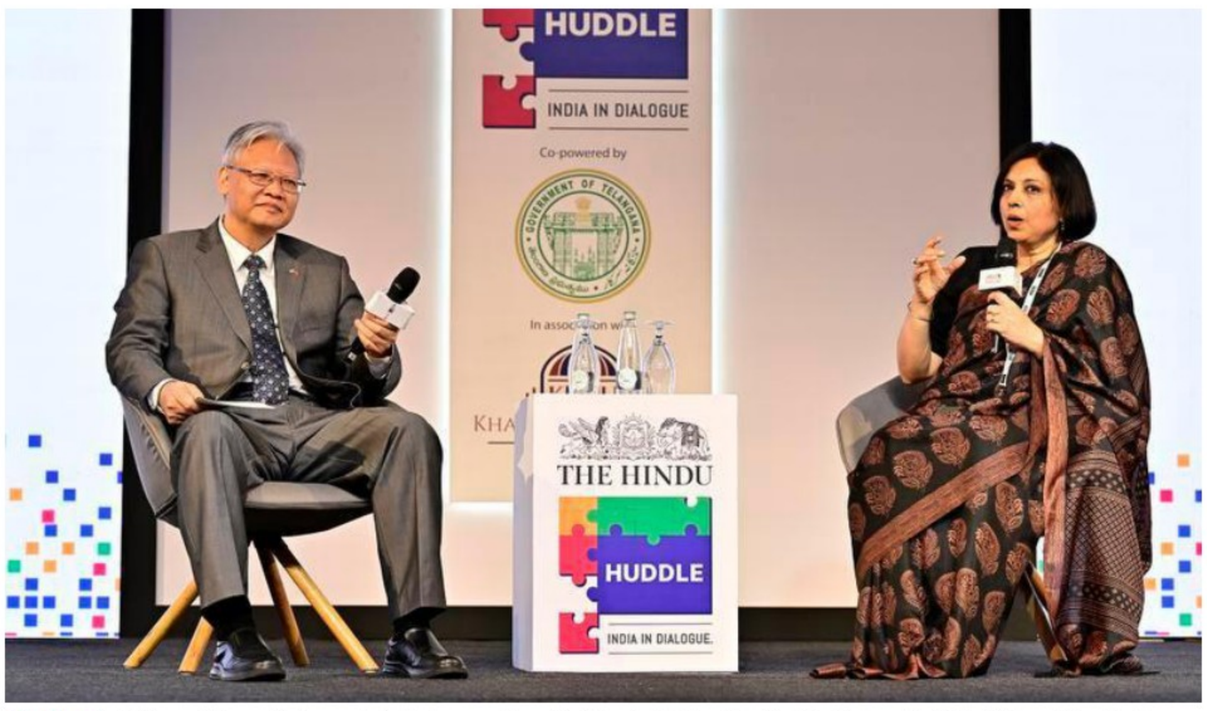
After serious and critical dialogues the whole day, this playful session came as a welcome change. He opened his interactive session by inviting an audience member on stage and asking her to choose a number between 1 and 100. He then pulled out a list of the "Top 100 Hollywood personalities" on his phone. The woman chose two, and the number corresponded to Brad Pitt on the list. Mr. Anand then impressed the audience by pulling out a photo of the American actor.

Mr. Anand's charismatic show brought energy and laughter to the evening.

India-China relations have improved to a new level of development: Xu Feihong

Chinese Ambassador calls for accelerated efforts towards 'full normalisation' of relations and stresses the need to address a 'serious deficit of trust'; currently, border situation is generally stable and peaceful, he says, adding that it requires dialogue to ensure a fair, mutually acceptable resolution

Ananth Krishnan
BENGALURU



Vital ties: Xu Feihong, Chinese Ambassador to India, speaking with Suhasini Haidar, *The Hindu*'s Diplomatic Affairs Editor, at The Hindu Huddle in Bengaluru on Friday. K. MURALI KUMAR

India-China relations over the past year have improved from a "reset and fresh start" to a "new level of development", Chinese Ambassador to India Xu Feihong said on Friday, calling for accelerated efforts towards a "full normalisation" of relations and to address a "serious deficit of trust".

In a conversation with Suhasini Haidar, Diplomatic Affairs Editor, *The Hindu*, Mr. Xu said the two leaders – Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping – had played "a leading role in providing strategic guidance for relations between our two countries".

"Both President Xi and Prime Minister Modi attach great importance to bilateral ties and view relations from the strategic and long-term perspective," he said.

"The diplomatic teams of two sides have been working very hard to step up communication and cooperation at various levels to advance implementation of the important common understandings between the two leaders. I would say the leaders have led relations from a reset and fresh start to a new level of development."

Mr. Xu said he was "very glad to see the gradual and tangible progress" both sides had made recently, including through easing of restrictions on investments from China, resumption of the Kailash-Mansarovar yatra for Indian pilgrims, resumption of direct flights between several cities, and other measures. At the same time, he said ties were not yet fully normalised.

"It is true we have made progress and (made) improvement in relations, but the full normalisation of our ties still calls for joint and continuous efforts from our two countries," Mr. Xu said. "China-India relations are one of the most important bilateral relationships in the world. The importance of relations extends beyond the bilateral scope and carries global strategic significance."

'Eased restrictions'

He said the Chinese side was "happy to see the Indian side has gradually eased restrictions on Chinese investment", referring to the restrictions imposed in early 2020, at the start of the pandemic, following the issuing of Press Note 3. He did, however, add that this was not yet a "complete" easing of measures.

Calling for more people-to-people ties, he said "the deficit of trust remains serious" between the two countries. "Exchanges between the policy-making bodies are not enough. China and India have nearly 50 government-to-government dialogue mechanisms, unfortunately most of them remain stalled," he said, adding that China was "ready to resume exchanges with India in various fields and at various levels."

On the border question and the rupture in ties following the Galwan Valley clash in June 2020, , Mr. Xu said both sides had held several rounds of recent talks, including most recently, last week in Beijing when both sides held the 35th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on border affairs. Both countries in Beijing discussed issues related to border delimitation, border management, mechanism building and cross-border cooperation.

"Currently the border situation is generally stable and peaceful," Mr. Xu said. "I think the boundary question is an important one and we should handle it properly. The boundary question is very complex and sensitive and left over from history. It concerns the sentiments of the two peoples and requires dialogue and consultation to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable resolution. China and India as two ancient civilisations have the wisdom and capability to find effective ways to accommodate each other's core interests and major concerns, and properly settle differences through dialogue."

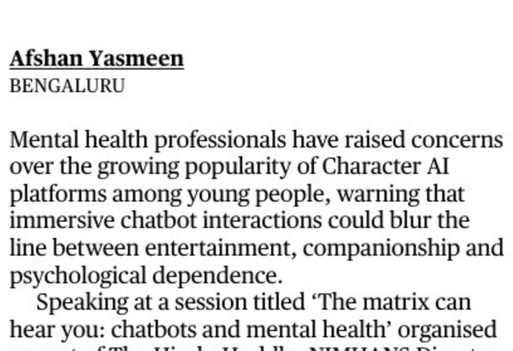
On ties with Pakistan

Questioned on China's relations with Pakistan, including its provision of assistance to the Pakistani military during Operation Sindoor which raised concerns in India, Mr. Xu said China "hopes India and Pakistan seek resolutions on their differences through negotiation and dialogue."

"Geographically you can never be separated from each side," he said. "Good relations will benefit the two countries, two peoples and will be conducive to maintain peace, development and prosperity of this region."

China, he said, was also "actively participating" in BRICS and supporting India's hosting of the BRICS Summit later this year. Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping are among leaders expected to attend.

On whether Mr. Xi will visit New Delhi for the summit on what would be his first visit to India since the 2019 summit, he said, "China, together with all member countries, is fully getting prepared for this very important occasion. There are three months for us to get prepared, so I cannot give you a very exact answer, but I hope you will stay tuned."



Amit Malik, psychiatrist, and Prabha S. Chandra, Director, NIMHANS, in conversation with Amrita Tripathi, author, in Bengaluru on Friday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Character AI poses unique risks for young users, mental health experts warn

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Mental health professionals have raised concerns over the growing popularity of Character AI platforms among young people, warning that immersive chatbot interactions could blur the line between entertainment, companionship and psychological dependence.

Speaking at a session titled 'The matrix can hear you: chatbots and mental health' organised as part of The Hindu Huddle, NIMHANS Director Prabha S. Chandra said Character AI differs significantly from conventional generative AI tools because users can interact with simulated personalities ranging from historical figures and celebrities to fictional characters and customised companions.

"Unlike a standard chatbot, Character AI allows users to create highly personalised relationships and narratives. It can become deeply immersive because users are not just consuming content; they are actively participating in and shaping the story," she said.

Dr. Chandra noted that many young users find such platforms engaging and entertaining, but cautioned that the absence of adequate safeguards could make them particularly vulnerable.

Referring to studies suggesting that individuals experiencing loneliness, social isolation or social anxiety are among the most frequent users of such platforms, Dr. Chandra said: "People who are lonely often use these tools for comfort, and that can sometimes be helpful. However, those who are already socially avoidant may end up withdrawing further from real-world interactions."

Amit Malik, psychiatrist and founder of mental health organisation Amaha, said AI systems could play a constructive role in improving access to information and mental health resources, particularly in a country where treatment gaps remain significant.

"The challenge is ensuring that AI remains a tool rather than becoming a substitute for human relationships, professional care or independent thinking," he said.

Need for stronger oversight

Pointing to international cases in which prolonged engagement with AI companions has been linked to emotional distress and harmful outcomes, Dr. Malik said this calls for stronger oversight and age-appropriate protections.

Both experts emphasised that while AI technologies are likely to become increasingly integrated into everyday life, human oversight, stronger regulations and greater digital literacy will be essential to minimise risks. Parents should take an active interest in how children and adolescents use AI platforms and discuss online experiences openly, they said.

Excessive dependence on such tools can have unintended consequences, the experts agreed. It can contribute to "cognitive laziness" – a reduced willingness to engage in independent thinking and problem-solving and also "emotional laziness", where individuals increasingly seek reassurance and emotional regulation from AI systems instead of developing coping skills through relationships and lived experience.

The discussion moderated by Amrita Tripathi, author and mental health advocate, also highlighted concerns around data privacy, misinformation and the potential impact of excessive reliance on generative AI on critical thinking, creativity and decision-making abilities.

R. Ganesan, Senior Vice-President, L&T; Neeti Sharma, CEO, TeamLease Digital; Praveen Someshwar, MD & CEO, USL and Member, Global Diageo Executive Committee; and Shailendra Katyal, MD, Lenovo India, with L.V. Navaneeth, CEO of The Hindu Group in Bengaluru, on Friday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Industry leaders reflect on leadership in times of chaos

Ravi Reddy
BENGALURU

Industry leaders shared candid reflections on leadership and the need to adapt to chaos, disruption, and volatility at The Hindu Huddle on Friday.

At a session moderated by L.V. Navaneeth, CEO of The Hindu Group, the panellists R. Ganesan, Senior Vice President, L&T; Neeti Sharma, CEO, TeamLease Digital; Praveen Someshwar, MD & CEO, USL and Member, Global Diageo Executive Committee; and Shailendra Katyal, MD, Lenovo India, shared their experiences on leadership.

Mr. Ganesan stressed the value of a structured approach: "I activate what I call 'pause, reflect, and then act. It's a regression of wisdom acquired over time, and it works," he said.

Ms. Sharma added that listening to stakeholders is critical. "Dashboards and analytics are abundant, but leaders must hear the noise of the industry. What keeps CXOs awake at night is understanding that noise," she said.

Mr. Katyal stressed on the need for clarity and focus. "Chaos is always the short term raising its hand. You must drown out the noise but keep an eye on the North Star. Fewer, bigger, better decisions matter most," he said and also warned against middle management bottlenecks. "Radical simplification and clear communication are essential," he said.

On geo-political shocks

Referring to the geopolitical shocks, Mr. Ganesan said: "Conflicts in the Red Sea, Ukraine, and the Strait of Hormuz disrupted supply chains. We started putting up algorithms knitting multiple variables – logistics, suppliers, raw material sources, and geopolitical events – to see how much uncertainty we can convert into structured decisions."

Reflecting on consumer behaviour and adaptability, Mr. Someshwar said: "Change is the reality. The ability to say no is the single biggest challenge – choosing what we will not get into is as important as what we will."

Ms. Sharma highlighted the permanence of disruption, pointing out that most retailers thought e-commerce was temporary. "But they missed the early signals and lost huge market share. Likewise, AI is a permanent disruptor. Leaders must redraw structures, talent maps, and skill sets," she said.

Mr. Navaneeth reflected on the media industry's upheaval: "We thought search traffic would remain stable, but when Google integrated Gemini, everything changed. Plans must adapt to reality. Don't get married to plans, get married to context," he said. He said that while AI reveals patterns, technology scales intelligence, but leadership scales judgment.

Film personalities discuss the influence of OTT platforms on Bollywood

Vivek M.V.
BENGALURU

Film production in Bollywood has gone down by 50%, and current filmmakers are confused about their prospective audience, according to actor Huma Qureshi.

"It's not an alarming sign, but I feel for upcoming actors who struggle for opportunities," said Ms. Qureshi, who was speaking at The Hindu Huddle on Friday.

Current trends

Ms. Qureshi shared her observations on current trends in Bollywood, along with fellow actor Kritika Kamra, during a session titled 'New avatar for the silver screen: the global reach of OTT', which was moderated by journalist and talk show host Rohit Khilnani.

"Earlier, great stories were backed by OTT. It was a wonderful period of storytelling. Today, we are confused about whom we are catering our films to," said Ms. Qureshi, who is set to star in the highly anticipated film *Toxic*.

Ms. Kamra echoed her thoughts. "Some incredible work was being done at the beginning of the OTT era. We took some big leaps in the OTT space. Now, we are making movies for numbers. Visibility is being prioritised because it makes money. It is a scary situation to be in," the actor said.

Actors Huma Qureshi and Kritika Kamra in conversation with journalist and host Rohit Khilnani on Friday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Ms. Kamra was praised for her performance in *The Great Shamsuddin Family*, a JioHotstar film revolving around a modern Muslim family grappling with generational gaps and social tensions. "It took eight years for the film to see the light of day. It's a small film, but I am glad to see the love it has gotten from women all over the world. The reception to the movie has given me the confidence to do an indie movie. We must have more small, mid-budget movies. They have disappeared," she said.

'Breaking barriers'

Ms. Qureshi said her hit series *Maharani* changed how people in the industry look at her as a performer.

She is keen on featuring in stories that "break cultural barriers", she said. "I would love to be part of something on the lines of *Adolescence* and *Squid Game*," she added.

Is becoming an influencer the new way to break into acting? Ms. Kamra does not think so. She opined that youngsters must be a part of the filmmaking process to grow as performers.

"They must attend auditions and try to assist directors. It's a better approach than building a social media profile and going viral," she said.

On pay parity

The actors also offered their perspectives on the hot topic of pay parity. "Apart from equal pay, we must also talk about female actors getting more screentime and unique characters. As for pay, I wish we reach a situation where we are in a position to demand a share of the film's profit," Ms. Kamra said.

Ms. Qureshi added: "Films are made for the male gaze. Women are just accessories. This mindset is deep-rooted."

The Hindu Huddle is presented by Sami-Sabinsa Group as the Presenting Partner. The event is co-powered by the Government of Telangana and held in association with Khaja Bandanawaz University

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UNITED NATIONS

Palestinian ambassador to UN calls on U.S. to stop Israeli annexation

AFP

The Palestinian ambassador to the UN, surrounded by his counterparts from Arab and Muslim countries, called on the United States on Thursday to stop Israel's annexation of its territories. "I know that President (Donald) Trump is capable, and he has the tools to stop Netanyahu in his tracks," Riyad Mansour said. AFP

WASHINGTON

U.S. judge blocks Trump govt.'s restrictions on legal immigration

AP

A U.S. federal judge on Friday blocked a series of restrictions placed by President Donald Trump's administration on legal immigration following last year's shooting of two National Guard members. The restrictive policies "threw the lives of countless immigrants living in the U.S. into indeterminate legal limbo," the judge wrote. AFP

BEIJING

Xi Jinping to travel to North Korea next week in first visit since 2019

AFP

Chinese leader Xi Jinping will travel to North Korea next week, both countries announced on Friday, in what will be his first visit in nearly seven years. The trip is coming just a few weeks after Mr. Xi hosted U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin in quick succession in Beijing. AP

MOSCOW

'Two leaks found on International Space Station, no threat to crew'

AP

Russian state space agency Roscosmos said on Friday that its experts had detected two leaks aboard the International Space Station (ISS) but that there was no immediate threat to the crew. The first leak was fixed with a hermetic compound while preparations are under way to seal the second leak, it said. REUTERS

'It's not your job to interfere in our country', Lebanon leader tells Iran

Tehran insists the fighting in Lebanon and the war in the Gulf are linked; Aoun urges Hezbollah to pursue diplomacy with Israel, stating that negotiation and dialogue are the only ways to resolve the conflict; six killed as Israel hits south Lebanon

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun urged Iran not to interfere in his country in an interview broadcast on Friday, also telling the Tehran-backed Hezbollah that diplomacy was the only solution to the conflict with Israel.

"It's not your country, it's our country... It's not your job to interfere into our country," Mr. Aoun said in the interview with *CNN*, addressing Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

"They are using Lebanon as a bargaining chip in their negotiation with the United States. It's unacceptable," he said.

Reclaiming space: UN peacekeepers and Lebanese soldiers at a road in Dibbine village in southeast Lebanon on Friday. AP

Hezbollah drew Lebanon into the West Asia war with rocket fire at Israel on March 2 to avenge the killing days earlier of Iran's Supreme Leader in U.S.-Israeli strikes. Israel responded with massive strikes and a ground invasion.

On Wednesday, Lebanese and Israeli envoys in Washington agreed to a truce which according to a statement is conditional on a "complete cessation" of Hezbollah fire, without mentioning a halt to Israeli attacks.

Tehran insists the fighting in Lebanon and the war in the Gulf are linked, and on Thursday the head of the Guards' foreign arm said Israel must pull back from its front lines in Lebanon.

"Hezbollah must understand that [there is] no other way but to sit and talk, no other way to solve this problem and to save what's left except through negotiation and diplomacy," Mr. Aoun added.

"It's the Lebanese people, they are not Naim Qassem['s] people," he said, referring to the Hezbollah chief, who on Thursday rejected the truce deal.

"The majority of the Lebanese people are fed up with war," the President added.

Meanwhile, Israel's air force struck different parts of southern Lebanon and killed six persons as the military issued evacuation warnings for nine villages, including one that has been spared much of the destruction and was sheltering thousands of people displaced by the three-month war.

Russian strikes in Ukraine kill 7, destroy food plant

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Ukrainian rescuers work at the site of an air attack at an undisclosed location in the Kyiv region on Friday. AFP

Russia fired hundreds of drones at Ukraine between late Thursday and early Friday, killing seven persons and destroying a factory that produces milk products for children, authorities said.

Images published by Ukraine's state emergency service showed the ruins of a building bearing the logo of Ukrainian dairy producer "Yagotynske for Kids", its facade partly destroyed and flames visible on one floor.

"The enemy attacked a peaceful civilian food industry enterprise," Kyiv region governor Mykola Kalashnyk said in a post on Telegram.

Elsewhere, a Ukrainian maritime drone that was being used in the country's war against Russia exploded at a Black Sea port in Romania, while three other sea drones exploded outside the port, Romanian authorities said. No one was hurt.

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin ruled out meeting his Ukrainian counterpart any time soon, a day after Volodymyr Zelenskyy called for a sit-down between the leaders to end the four-year war. Mr. Putin said he saw "no point" in meeting Mr. Zelenskyy until the terms of a possible peace deal had been agreed – triggering Kyiv to say the Russian leader was "weak" and "choosing war again".

UN doubles appeal for Lebanon aid to $640 mn amid war

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

The UN on Friday more than doubled its aid appeal for Lebanon as the country reels from Israel's war against Iran-backed Hezbollah, saying nearly $640 million was needed over six months.

Three months into the war, the United Nations warned that a "humanitarian catastrophe" was looming in Lebanon, with a quarter of its population needing aid.

"Communities across Lebanon have faced an appalling situation due to the escalation of hostilities," Imran Riza, the UN's resident humanitarian coordinator for Lebanon, told presspersons in Geneva, speaking from Beirut.

He said Israeli attacks have killed more than 3,500 people and injured over 10,000 others since Hezbollah drew Lebanon into the wider West Asia war on March 2, firing rockets at Israel in retaliation for U.S.-Israeli strikes that killed Iran's Supreme Leader.

U.S. sanctions Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel and Castro family members

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

The United States on Thursday imposed sanctions on Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel, his wife and three other individuals, in the latest move by the Trump administration to pressure the island's leadership that drew immediate condemnation from Havana.

Included in the sanctions are Alejandro Castro Espin, the sole son of former Cuban President Raul Castro and Vilma Espin. He served as an adviser to Cuba's Defence and National Security Commission and was present when Raul Castro greeted then-U.S. President Barack Obama in Havana during a 2016 meeting. Castro Espin's son, Raul Alejandro Castro Calis, also was listed.

Miguel Diaz-Canel

The new penalties come as U.S. President Donald Trump has been threatening military action in Cuba since ousting Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro in January and then ordering an energy blockade that choked off fuel shipments to Cuba. That has led to severe blackouts, food shortages and an economic collapse across the island.

The threats took on additional weight after the U.S. announced criminal charges against Raul Castro last month. Thursday's penalties, which follow Mr. Trump signing an executive order expanding sanctions against the island, freeze individuals' property and bank accounts in the U.S. But it's unclear how intertwined their finances are with the U.S. financial system.

Mr. Diaz-Canel accused Mr. Trump of making "new threatening statements against Cuba" and said "these measures are aimed at reinforcing the blockade and escalating the conflict between Cuba and the United States".

The new sanctions also apply to non-American entities that might do business with those listed.

Five Azerbaijanis killed in Azov Sea drone attack: Baku

Agence France-Presse
BAKU

Five Azerbaijanis were killed and three wounded in a drone attack on Friday on two foreign cargo ships in the Sea of Azov, Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry said.

Russia said Ukraine carried out the attack.

The commander of Ukraine's unmanned systems forces said Kyiv had struck "loitering vessels" transporting illegal cargo in the area, without commenting on the statements by Baku and Moscow or the reports of crew killed.

Citing an official Russian communication to Baku, Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry said 25 of its citizens were among the crews of the two vessels, which it said were not owned by Azerbaijani companies.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Maria Zakharova, said the vessels, the *Natra* and *Tsirkon*, were attacked by Ukrainian drones early Friday while sailing from Turkiye to the port of Rostov-on-Don under the flags of Belize and Palau respectively.

Sport

England on top despite Smith's six-wicket haul

CRICKET

Associated Press
LONDON

New Zealand was 36 for three in pursuit of an increasingly distant 254 to beat England after day two on a minefield of a Lord's Test pitch on Friday.

England bagged the big wicket of Kane Williamson just 10 minutes before stumps. Williamson missed a full length delivery from Josh Tongue that would have crashed into middle stump.

New opening batter Emilio Gay with a match-high 57 led England to 226 in its second innings. Pacer Nathan Smith claimed six for 70.

But New Zealand's hopes were dramatically slashed in the last hour of the day when captain Tom Latham was out to the third ball of the chase, followed by the departures of Williamson and night-watcher Will O'Rourke.

Prized scalp: Smith is on cloud nine after castling Stokes. REUTERS

A shaky Devon Conway, on 12, will restart the innings on Saturday.

The scores: England 140 & 226 in 56 overs (Emilio Gay 57, Nathan Smith 6/70) vs New Zealand 113 in 29.5 overs (Ollie Robinson 5/38) & 36/3 in 11.5 overs.

SNAPSHOTS

India edges Pakistan in men's semis; women lose to China

KAKAMIGAHARA (JAPAN): The Indian hockey team beat Pakistan 5-3 in the under-18 men's Asia Cup semifinals on Friday. Trailing 2-3 until the final quarter, India produced an outstanding attacking display in the final minutes to secure its place in the summit clash against Japan. Ashish Tani Purti, who starred with four goals, put India ahead in the first quarter via a penalty stroke before Adeel brought Pakistan on level terms towards the fag end of the second. India reclaimed the lead in the 35th through Shahrukh Ali only for Pakistan to take the lead with two quick goals. India launched a furious attack in the final quarter where Purti completed his tally and ensured victory.

The women's team lost in penalty shootouts to China in the semifinals. After an intense 2-2 draw over four quarters, the Indians lost 1-3 in the shootout.

The results (semifinals):
Women: China 2 (Li ZeYan 24, Zhang Yuzheng 48) drew with India 2 (Nousheen Naz 3, Kiran Ekka 54) (China won 3-1 via penalty shootout).
Men: India 5 (Ashish Tani Purti 12, 49, 53, 56, Shahrukh Ali 35) bt Pakistan 3 (Adeel 27, Muhammad Farhan Aslam 37, Uzair Ahmad Qureshi 42).

Happy times: The Indian team celebrates after scoring against Pakistan. X@THEHOCKEYINDIA

India loses to Tajikistan

TURSUNZODA (TAJIKISTAN): India suffered a 1-3 defeat against Tajikistan in an international football friendly on Friday.

The home team took the lead early through Sheriddin Boboev's spot kick in the ninth minute and carried the advantage into the break.

Tajikistan tightened its grip on the contest with two more goals from Mekhrubon Karimov (61st minute) and Ehson Panjshanbe (67th). The visitor reduced the margin after a superb effort from Farukh Choudhary (88th).

Pathirage breaches 90m mark in javelin

ROME: Sri Lanka's Rumesh Pathirage came within 35 centimetres of Arshad Nadeem's Asian record while clinching the men's javelin title with a stunning throw of 92.62 metres at the Rome Diamond League meeting on Thursday. Nadeem had thrown 92.97m while winning the Olympic gold in Paris two years ago.

The feat also made the Sri Lankan only the fourth Asian athlete to surpass the 90m barrier in the event, joining Taiwan's Cheng Chao-Tsun (PB 91.36m), Neeraj Chopra (90.23m), and Nadeem. It also shattered the 20-year-old meet record of 90.34m, set by Norway's Andreas Thorkildsen in 2006.

Anderson Peters of Grenada (83.91m) and USA's Curtis Thompson (83.89m) were second and third.

India's Sachin Yadav (79.18m) endured a subdued debut, finishing eighth. Olympic champion Noah Lyles sped to victory in the men's 100m (9.88s), ahead of Emmanuel Eseme (9.94) and Olympic 200m champion Letsile Tebogo (9.95).

Pathirage. AFP

ONUS ON ICC

Teams like Afghanistan need to gain more exposure: Pybus

R.V. MOORTHY

Afghanistan head coach Richard Pybus highlighted the lack of regular high-quality cricket that the less-fancied teams get. "The onus is on the ICC. It is one thing to get full membership, but then you need to get a full fixture list. It can't be that the development of teams is just based on the exposure they get at World Cups".

VIEWPOINT

Sooryavanshi should play Tests for larger good of the game: Ashwin

FILE PHOTO

You cannot force a particular facet of the game [to someone], but I think he should play Test cricket. If you are thinking about the larger good of the game, I believe he should. But that said, can you teach your children what they are not willing to learn? You cannot — R. Ashwin on Vaibhav Sooryavanshi during the *ESPNcricinfo* awards.

SHOWING SYMPATHY

I almost cried and was completely sad: Cobolli on Arnaldi's pullout

REUTERS

Flavio Cobolli expressed his sympathy after his "friend" Matteo Arnaldi pulled out of the French Open semifinal clash owing to illness. "It is tough for me to speak. When Arnaldi came to me an hour ago, I almost cried and I was completely sad for him. But at the same time, I am really happy for what I have achieved this week".

TACTICAL SHIFT

I have had to develop different kinds of weapons: Chwalinska

AFP

I know that I'm playing different tennis compared to most of the girls on the tour. I don't have the [physical] conditions to play strong, so I need to develop different kinds of weapons. I have played differently and I think it helps me a lot against these players — French Open women's finalist Maja Chwalinska.

India's quest for Test reset begins against Afghanistan

Head coach Gambhir confirms that Sai Sudharsan will be given a long rope at No. 3; for the visitor, some of its white-ball stars, including ace leggie Rashid, are missing from the squad

AFGHANISTAN IN INDIA

Vivek Krishnan
NEW CHANDIGARH

The dawn of a fresh Test season carries an abiding allure. The maroonish-red hue of the brand new ball, the expanse of lush green gleaming under azure skies, the players stretching every sinew in creamy white flannels, all enrich the unique rhythms of the game's oldest format.

After a heavy diet of T20 cricket in this part of the world, the one-off Test between India and Afghanistan from Saturday will hope to showcase some of these fine aspects. The venue will be the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Stadium, which is poised to become the country's 31st Test centre.

On the face of it, of course, an assignment against Afghanistan for Shubman Gill & Co. should be a cosy precursor to more gruelling challenges. It isn't even part of the World Test Championship (WTC) cycle. But for India's current Test outfit, reeling from a series defeat to South Africa last November, the need to set things right in this version is pressing.

Particularly at home, which was an impregnable bastion for 12 long years, India has conspicuously floundered in recent times. The whitewash by New Zealand in a three-Test series in 2024 precipitated the downturn. In the current WTC cycle, India is sixth in the standings.

Opening duty: Rahul gets into the groove ahead of the Test. R.V. MOORTHY

But head coach Gautam Gambhir doesn't quite believe all is lost in the quest to make the WTC final next year. Two Tests each against Sri Lanka and New Zealand, and a blockbuster five-match series at home against Australia await after facing Afghanistan. "Till you have the opportunity to qualify for the WTC final, you are always optimistic," Gambhir stressed on Friday.

Fuelling the coach's belief is the vast array of talent.

In this squad, amidst the more established faces, the likes of Sai Sudharsan, Devdutt Padikkal, Manav Suthar, Harsh Dubey and Gurnoor Brar bring spark and novelty.

Not all of these will fit into the XI, but Sai Sudharsan seems set to continue at No. 3. "Honestly, Sai Sudharsan hasn't got a fair chance. He started his Test career in England, which we all know is not the easiest place," reasoned Gambhir.

The other vacant spot meriting debate involves the uncapped left-arm spin duo of Manav Suthar and Harsh Dubey.

In Afghanistan's case, some of its leading white-ball stars, including ace leggie Rashid Khan, are missing.

But for Hashmatullah Shahidi's men, who have played just 12 Tests in eight years, the chance to engage in India's Test season should be enough to spur the competitive juices.

The teams (from): India: Shubman Gill (Capt.), K.L. Rahul, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sai Sudharsan, Rishabh Pant (wk), Devdutt Padikkal, Nitish Kumar, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Manav Suthar, Gurnoor Brar, Harsh Dubey, and Dhruv Jurel (wk).

Afghanistan: Hashmatullah Shahidi (Capt.), Abdul Malik, Afsar Zazai (wk), Ikram Alikhil (wk), Rahmanullah, Rahmanullah Gurbaz (wk), Sediqullah Atal, Azmatullah Omarzai, Nangeyalia Kharote, Rahmat Shah, Sharafuddin Ashraf, Bilal Sami, Mohammad Saleem, Qais Ahmad, and Ziaur Rahman.

Match starts at 9.30 a.m.

Gambhir all for use of pink ball in bad light

Vivek Krishnan
NEW CHANDIGARH

India head coach Gautam Gambhir has backed the ICC's trial to switch from a red ball to a pink ball during a Test in the case of bad light affecting play. The agreement of both teams prior to a Test is required for the change to be effected.

Getting the nod

The decision was one of the recommendations of the Chief Executives Committee that was approved by the ICC Board at a meeting in Ahmedabad last Sunday.

India has so far played five Tests with the pink ball, which is used exclusively for day-night matches. With making the World Test Championship final being a big incentive in the five-day game, Gambhir said he wouldn't want his team to be deprived of that opportunity owing to bad light.

"I love that. I've always believed that if there's an opportunity to get a result, you should always have that opportunity," Gambhir said.

"Imagine if you're playing the last Test before the WTC final and you have the chance to win that Test and qualify, but because of bad light it's not happening. I know it could be a little difficult for the players. But it's a proactive move. And hopefully the teams will start taking it in a positive way".

'We need to prepare better for Tests'

Vivek Krishnan
NEW CHANDIGARH

Less than a week after the conclusion of the Indian Premier League's 19th season, the Indian team will be switching to the classical format when it takes on Afghanistan in a one-off Test at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Stadium from Saturday.

Such little turnaround time between formats is a persistent demand of modern-day cricket for Indian players in particular, but head coach Gautam Gambhir said that the focus from now will be on ensuring more extensive preparation leading up to a Test assignment.

India's fortunes in the longest format have plummeted over the last two years. Having been whitewashed by New Zealand at home in 2024, the subcontinent giant suffered a similar fate at the hands of South Africa last November. In the current World Test Championship cycle, Shubman Gill & Co. are languishing at sixth in the standings.

While India is expected to brush aside Afghanistan easily, it has challenging away tours of Sri Lanka and New Zealand later in the year.

"Look, we are a little fortunate that we have got enough time before Sri Lanka. After the white-ball tour of England, we have about a 15-day break before Sri Lanka. So that is enough time to prepare for those two Tests," Gambhir told reporters on the eve of the Test against Afghanistan.

"We might have to prepare a little differently for New Zealand. Because between the last ODI there and the first Test in Wellington, there is a three-day gap. So we will have to pull out ODI players who are part of the Test squad.

"Because one thing we realised is that we need to start preparing better in red-ball cricket. And that was something that was lacking against the West Indies and also against South Africa. And that is something which we are going to do going forward," the 44-year-old added.

All in readiness: Jurel and head coach Gambhir during a practice session on Friday. R.V. MOORTHY

Pybus keen to start with a clean slate as Afghanistan head coach

Vivek Krishnan
NEW CHANDIGARH

In Jonathan Trott's four-year tenure as head coach, Afghanistan scaled new heights, notably reaching the semifinals of the 2024 T20 World Cup.

Task ahead

It is now upon Richard Pybus, 61, to build on the foundation laid by the former England batter.

Whilst acknowledging Trott's efforts, Pybus wants to go into his maiden assignment – a Test against India at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Stadium from Saturday – with a clean slate.

"I did have a chat with Jonathan to hear from him about the role, and also to congratulate him because he's done so well to develop the side.

"When I start with a team, I start with a blank slate though," the England-born coach told reporters on Friday.

Pybus' first Afghanistan challenge is compounded by Rashid Khan's unavailability.

Rashid conundrum

"Rashid has got this long-standing back complaint. He's got such a huge volume of cricket, and he has to manage himself. I look forward to having that conversation to see how we can support him to continue to play red-ball cricket".

Shreyas set to be handed Men in Blue's T20I reins

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Shreyas Iyer is set to return to India's T20I set-up and is also likely to be handed the captaincy in the shortest format when the senior national selection committee meets here on Saturday to pick the squads for three crucial assignments.

The senior selection panel, chaired by Ajit Agarkar, is scheduled to finalise the contingents for the T20I series in Ireland, subsequent limited-overs tour of England and the Asian Games. Shreyas, who last played a T20I in December 2023, is expected to replace Suryakumar Yadav both in the squad and as captain. After enduring a prolonged lean patch with the bat, Suryakumar is set to lose his place despite having led India during its successful T20 World Cup title defence earlier this year.

The Hindu understands that both the selectors and team management have increasingly gravitated towards Shreyas as the leadership choice.

Shreyas. FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

Having captained Kolkata Knight Riders to the IPL title in 2024 before guiding Punjab Kings to the final in 2025, the 31-year-old's leadership credentials have significantly strengthened his case. Other names discussed for the role included Sanju Samson, Ishan Kishan and Tilak Varma.

Interestingly, Hardik Pandya – who had been replaced by Suryakumar as captain at the beginning of the previous T20 World Cup cycle – and vice-captain of the recent World Cup campaign, Axar Patel, have not featured prominently in discussions so far.

Beyond the captaincy debate, teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is the major talking point. The key question is whether the selectors accelerate the 15-year-old's entry into the T20I squad or introduce him gradually through a relatively easier assignment in Zimbabwe in July.

India will play two T20Is in Ireland on June 26 and 28 before travelling to England for five T20Is and three ODIs between July 1 and 19. The Asian Games cricket competition, scheduled from September 17 to October 3, overlaps with India's home ODI series against the West Indies.

The selectors are also expected to name a replacement for Virat Kohli, whose hamstring injury has ruled him out of the ODI series against Afghanistan.

Zverev gets past Mensik; Cobolli handed a walkover

FRENCH OPEN

Agencies
PARIS

Alexander Zverev moved to the verge of a long-awaited maiden Grand Slam men's title as the second seed saw off Jakub Mensik in four sets here on Friday to set up a French Open final against Flavio Cobolli.

The German, who secured a 7-5, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 victory, will face 10th seed Cobolli on Sunday.

Cobolli did not even have to play his first Grand Slam semifinal as his last-four opponent and fellow Italian, Matteo Arnaldi, withdrew shortly before the match due to illness.

Arnaldi's dream of a Slam title was ended by a virus. "It is tough... how the tournament was, how many hours I spent on court, I felt pretty good," said Arnaldi. "Every time I get up, I feel dizziness and not the best, so it was the right decision."

Marching on: Zverev stepped up when required. REUTERS

SEMIFINAL RESULTS

Men: 2-Zverev (Ger) bt 26-Mensik (Cze) 7-5, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3; 10-Cobolli (Ita) w/o Arnaldi (Ita).

While there was agony for Arnaldi, there was joy for Zverev. The 29-year-old took a closely-fought first set, courtesy of a break in the 11th game, having earlier saved three break points to deny Mensik a 5-3 lead. The 26th seed could not keep pace in the second set as Zverev broke twice and only dropped four points on his serve.

Mensik called for a medical time-out three games into the third set, appearing to struggle with a neck injury. But he dragged himself back into the contest, breaking to take a 4-2 lead, as his drop shots had a greater impact. That shot wrapped up a hold to love and the set – only the second Zverev had lost in the tournament.

But Mensik could not keep up his momentum and later allowed Zverev to earn victory on his first match point.

Glory beckons: Eighth seed Andreeva and qualifier Chwalinska are eyeing their maiden Slam. REUTERS & AP

It's Andreeva's power vs. Chwalinska's guile

Reuters
PARIS

If the French Open women's final appears on paper to be a mismatch between a teenage prodigy and an unheralded qualifier, Poland's Maja Chwalinska has spent the past fortnight proving appearances can be deceiving.

Russian eighth seed Mirra Andreeva arrives at Saturday's showpiece as the overwhelming favourite after bulldozing her way through the draw, dropping only 12 games in her last three matches and looking every inch a future Grand Slam champion. Yet across the net will stand a player whose improbable run has become one of the stories of the tournament.

Chwalinska travelled to Paris ranked 114th in the world and had to win three qualifying matches to reach the main draw. Nine victories later, the 24-year-old finds herself one win away from one of the most unlikely Grand Slam titles of the Open Era.

The Russian's relentless baseline power and ability to dictate rallies have overwhelmed opponents.

In an era dominated by power hitters, Chwalinska has captivated spectators with a game built on variety, touch and tactical intelligence. Only one qualifier had previously reached a Grand Slam final in the Open Era – Emma Raducanu at the 2021 U.S. Open, a tournament the Briton went on to win.

INBRIEF

Indian wrestlers do well at Ulaanbaatar Open

Manisha (57kg) and Neha (59kg) clinched gold to headline a successful day for Indian wrestlers – who secured four gold and two bronze medals – across the Greco-Roman and women's categories at the Ulaanbaatar Open Ranking Series in Mongolia. In Greco-Roman, Sunil, *left in pic*, won the 87kg gold while Nitesh, *right in pic*, claimed the 97kg title.

The results: Men: Greco-Roman: Final: 87kg: Sunil bt Azad Salidinov 4-1; **97kg:** Nitesh bt Nurassyl Amanaly 13-9. **Third place: 60kg:** Sumit bt Sahil 5-0.
Women: Final: 57kg: Manisha bt Sim Son 3-1; **59kg:** Neha bt Pyol Hong 5-3. **Third place: 50kg:** Neelam bt Maral Tangirbergenova 10-0.

Hariharan-Arjun pair exits in last eight of Indonesia Open

The Indian challenge at the Indonesia Open at Jakarta came to an end on Friday with the men's doubles pair of A. Hariharan and M.R. Arjun losing 12-21, 10-21 to Malayasia's Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin in a quarterfinal that lasted 32 minutes.

Barcelona's Yamal named LaLiga player of the year

Teenage Barcelona striker Lamine Yamal was named player of the year in LaLiga on Friday after spearheading the club's drive to the title. The winger succeeds his Brazilian teammate Raphina, who won the award in 2025. Yamal missed much of the first half of the campaign with groin issues but still managed 16 goals and 12 assists in the 28 Liga games he played.

Liverpool appoints Spaniard Iraola as new boss

Liverpool named Andoni Iraola as its new manager on Thursday after sacking Arne Slot following a calamitous Premier League title defence. Liverpool gave no indication as to the length of the 43-year-old Spaniard's contract but British media have reported that he has signed a two-year deal.

Serena to compete in doubles event at Berlin Open

Serena Williams will take part in the women's doubles at this month's WTA Berlin Open, organisers announced Friday, the next stop in her comeback after a near four-year absence.

Sony Sports to telecast India-A's tri-series in Sri Lanka

Sony Sports Network has secured the television and digital rights for the tri-nation cricket tournament featuring India-A, Sri Lanka-A and Afghanistan-A in Sri Lanka from June 9 to 21. The series will see teen star Vaibhav Sooryavanshi turning out for India-A.

LIVE TELECAST

India vs Afghanistan: One-off Test, day 1, Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 9.30 a.m.

French Open: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 2.30 & 6.30 p.m.

England vs New Zealand: 1st Test, day 3, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV. 3.30 p.m.

Formula One: Monaco GP (Qualifying), F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 7.30 p.m.

International Friendlies: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2 & LIV. 11.15 p.m.

Future more important than the past

The Argentine superstar says that his team has to be prepared to face tough times as the opponents will treat it as the defending champion; the talisman feels that the group is filled with exceptional players who are hungry for more success; he waxes eloquent on head coach Scaloni

INTERVIEW

Lionel Messi

Can he do it again? Messi, who will be playing in his sixth World Cup, will love to bow out with another title. FILE PHOTO

Argentina's Lionel Messi opened up about winning the 2022 FIFA World Cup while looking ahead to defending the title in the 2026 showpiece beginning in the Americas**. Excerpts:**

How important was the 18th December 2022 night in Qatar?

One of the most special nights for all of us Argentines, and a very, very special night for the group and me. We tried everything in every edition to win the World Cup again after 1986. But we had to return empty-handed. On that night at the Lusail Stadium, the dream came true for all of us. We had to wait a long 36 years for it. That made it more special!

Under your leadership, Argentina will be playing another World Cup. For the first time, you will enter the competition as the defending champion. Added pressure?

Playing for Argentina is always an honour for me. I have enjoyed every bit of it. Yes, there were times when we did not do well. But we always gave our best on the field. The last few years have been exceptional since we have won three major tournaments – the Copa America twice and the World Cup. It really felt great to achieve something for the nation. We shall be trying to do the same again. However, things will be different this time since our opponents will treat us as the defending champions and we have to be prepared to face tough times.

Winning the World Cup for Argentina has always highlighted a special bond between the coach and the captains. Luis Cesar Menotti had Daniel Passarella, while Carlos Bilardo's go-to man was Diego Maradona. Do you have the same bond with Lionel Scaloni?

Well, we were teammates in the 2006 World Cup where Scaloni was senior to me, and I was almost a kid. He was a great teammate since he always had something hilarious to say. He has changed a lot as the manager of the side, but his way of working is still the same – he talks directly to all the players in the squad, makes them understand what he is looking for. That's simply great. He knows what to do before and during the match and his visions are clear. And like everyone else in the squad, I, too, feel the same warmth when we talk.

Can Argentina retain the title?

Nobody can say so! It's World Cup, the greatest football tournament and every team will try their best to win it. Yes, we are preparing with the same intensity and shall give our all to do the best. But in football, you cannot predict. We have a strong group of exceptional players who are hungry for more success. They are champions but they want more. It creates a wonderful atmosphere in the dressing room and for that, again, Scaloni and his group deserve kudos.

Which are the teams capable of spoiling the party for Argentina?

France is obviously there as they were in the last two editions. They reached both the finals, winning one. Then there is Spain, a team full of extraordinary talented footballers. Brazil has been waiting to be crowned for so many years now. They will be eager. So will be Germany and England.

The Argentine fans will definitely expect another success...

That is quite natural. I know it very well. If you remember, after we lost the first match in Qatar (to Saudi Arabia), I had repeatedly told the fans to back us, since I knew the group very well and believed in their abilities. They were behind us and we were successful in our effort to win the Cup. They would expect us to do the same again, but it's never easy. For me, the future is more important than past. We promise to give our best, as always. The rest remains to be seen.

(Professional Management Group).

Praggnanandhaa jumps to second spot; Assaubayeva claims the women's title

Tasting success: Praggnanandhaa's resilience was on display as he overcame the advantage held by Gukesh to pull off a crucial win while a quick draw against Muzychuk in the classical formant handed Assaubayeva the crown. FLICKR/NORWAYCHESS

NORWAY CHESS

C. Shyam Sundar
OSLO

They are friends alright but when they sit across each other at a chess board, there's no inch given or taken. Young Indian Grandmasters R. Praggnanandhaa and D. Gukesh faced off in the ninth and penultimate round of the Norway Chess late on Thursday with a lot on the line and played out an interesting battle before the former emerged on top with black pieces to reignite his title hopes.

Kazakhstan's Bibisara Assaubayeva, meanwhile, sewed up the women's title with a round to spare, despite losing to defending champion Anna Muzychuk in Armageddon at Deichman Bjorvika here.

Praggnanandhaa's resilience was on display as he overcame the advantage held by the World champion to pull off a crucial win to take him to 15 points. Going into the final round, he's just half-a-point behind leader Wesley So, who edged out Magnus Carlsen in Armageddon.

Praggnanandhaa, who registered his third straight win, said: "Three days back, I was fighting for the last spot. And now I have a chance at fighting (for top spot), so I'll take it."

Assaubayeva entered the ninth round knowing that a draw in the classical game could ensure the top place for her. The game against Muzychuk ended in a quick draw before the Kazakh went down in Armageddon.

The two Indians in the fray – Divya Deshmukh and Koneru Humpy – suffered defeats. Divya lost to Zhu Jiner, slipping up owing to time pressure to allow the Chinese to rise to third on the leaderboard.

The results: Ninth round: Open: Vincent Keymer (Ger, 11) lost to Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 14.5) in Armageddon; Wesley So (USA, 15.5) bt Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 10) in Armageddon; D. Gukesh (8) lost to R. Praggnanandhaa (15).

Women: Divya Deshmukh (10) lost to Zhu Jiner (Chn, 10.5); Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kaz, 16.5) lost to Anna Muzychuk (Ukr, 12) in Armageddon; Koneru Humpy (9) lost to Ju Wenjun (Chn, 10.5) in Armageddon.

(The writer is in Oslo at the invitation of Norway Chess).

Indian players are an arbiter's delight, says Kulczak

C. Shyam Sundar
OSLO

Anemone Kulczak seems like a constant at Norway Chess. The Frenchwoman, who made a smooth transition from playing to being an arbiter, is enjoying the role. "I played many tournaments after having learnt the game from my father when I was very young and at some point I wanted to know the regulations," Kulczak, who has been the chief arbiter at several editions of the Norway Chess, told *The Hindu*.

There's been no looking back since she decided to take an arbiter's course and obtained certifications and is at home officiating in top-flight events, including the Chess Olympiad.

The 31-year-old said the modern generation of players were disciplined and easier to handle. She was all praise for the Indians and said players like World champion D. Gukesh, R. Praggnanandhaa, Koneru Humpy and Divya Deshmukh, who are taking part in this year's event, were an arbiter's delight as they consistently followed the rules.

Kulczak reckons that India is the future of chess. NORWAY CHESS

Kulczak was full of admiration of the manner in which Indian chess had evolved over the years and felt that the new generation is talented and there would be more world champions.

"India is the future of chess... India will continue to have world champions. Gukesh is an exceptionally talented player and there are many others too like Pragg. It is good for world chess," she added.

Kulczak, who was at the helm during the tournament in Stavanger in 2025 when Magnus Carlsen famously banged the table after losing to Gukesh, said arbiters had to be more careful these days as there is intense scrutiny and ensure that rules matter more than reputations.

Global Influence for the feature event

RACING

BENGALURU: Global Influence, who has been well tuned, is expected to score in the Nawab M Arshad Ali Khan Memorial Cup (1,400m), the main event of the races to be held here on Saturday (June 6). False rails (width about 6m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position. Jockey for Versace (3rd race) will be declared later.

1 ASCOT PLATE (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2-30 p.m.: 1. Avener (5) Sandesh 56, 2. Burevestnik (3) G. Vivek 56, 3. Shining Path (6) Antony 56, 4. Twilight King (4) A. Asbar 56, 5. Exotic Black (1) L.A. Rozario 54.5 and 6. Shrishti (2) Yash 54.5.
1. BUREVESTNIK, 2. AVENER

2 RARE GEM PLATE (DIV. II), 1,200m, rated 20 to 45, 3-00: 1. Zayana (7) Pavan 60, 2. Jalwa (6) Asirvatham 57, 3. Vibrant Queen (5) Sai Kiran 56.5, 4. The Golden Dream (4) M. Rajesh K 55.5, 5. Joyful Spirit (3) Darshan 55, 6. Lightning Blitz (9) Suraj 55, 7. Detective Conan (8) S. Saqlain 54.5, 8. Hushed (2) A. Asbar 53.5 and 9. Fiery Love (1) Rushal 52.
1. LIGHTNING BLITZ, 2. VIBRANT QUEEN, 3. HUSHED

3 SANTORINI STAR PLATE (1,400m), rated 00 to 25, 3-30: 1. SD Good Sam (8) Vishal S 62, 2. Stella Maris (4) Pavan 62, 3. Versace (1) (-) 61.5, 4. Vafadar (9) Md. Talib 61, 5. Queen maxima (11) Faizan 59, 6. Equalizer (6) M. Rajesh K 58.5, 7. Infinite Spirit (2) Vaibhav 58.5, 8. Legendary Impact (5) Aditya W 57, 9. Princess Jasmine (10) Suhas 57, 10. Embosom (3) Jagadeesh 55, 11. Golden Gallery (7) Vishal 54 and 12. Recreator (12) Vinod Shinde 50.
1. STELLA MARIS, 2. VERSACE, 3. EMBOSOM

4 BRIG R.C.R. HILL MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,800m), rated 40 to 65, 4-00: 1. Winfield (2) Antony 60, 2. Caccini (7) G. Vivek 59.5, 3. Maana (3) Sandesh 58.5, 4. Youremanorborne (4) Pranil 58.5, 5. Moon Star (5) Suraj 57.5, 6. Multi Success (1) Darshan 56.5 and 7. Super Splash (6) A. Asbar 53.
1. MAANA, 2. CACCINI

5 NAWAB M ARSHAD ALI KHAN MEMORIAL CUP (1,400m), rated 80 & above, 4-30: 1. Touch Of Grey (5) M. Prabhakaran 60, 2. Global Influence (1) Suraj 59, 3. Mandarino (6) Pavan 59, 4. Kalamitsi (2) Sandesh 58, 5. Star Glory (4) Saurav Rawat 58 and 6. Xanthe (3) Hindu S 51.5.
1. GLOBAL INFLUENCE, 2. STAR GLORY

6 RARE GEM PLATE (DIV. I), 1,200m, rated 20 to 45, 5-00: 1. Agera (9) R. Pradeep 61, 2. Sapporo (4) Pavan 61, 3. Solara (8) Sandesh 58, 4. Femme Fatale (6) Rushal 57.5, 5. Mnemosyne (1) Asirvatham 57.5, 6. Chotipari (5) L.A. Rozario 57, 7. Carat Love (2) Mukesh 55.5, 8. Blind Faith (3) Neeraj 53.5 and 9. Xaily (7) M. Rajesh K 53.5.
1. SOLARA, 2. BLIND FAITH, 3. SAPPORO

Day's best: **SOLARA**

Double: **LIGHTNING BLITZ – GLOBAL INFLUENCE**

Jkt: 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6; Mini Jkt: 3, 4, 5 and 6; Tr (i): 1, 2 and 3; (ii): 4, 5 and 6.

Shapoor Mistry's Thundering On storms to Oaks glory at Epsom

Vinayak M. Zodge

In a moment of immense pride for Indian racing, owner-breeder Shapoor Mistry etched his name on the international stage as his filly Thundering On powered to a commanding victory in the prestigious Betfred Oaks at Epsom on Friday.

Trained by Joseph O'Brien, the three-year-old delivered a classy performance under the confident ride of Dylan Browne McMonagle. Positioned perfectly during the early stages, Thundering On moved effortlessly alongside the leader Legacy Link approaching the final furlong. With her rival under pressure, McMonagle waited patiently before asking his filly for her effort. The response was decisive and she quickened in an impressive fashion to seal victory at odds of 5-1.

Historic win: Mistry, second from right, leading in Thundering On (McMonagle up) as trainer O'Brien looks on. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

THE HINDU GROUP

WHEN CHAOS MEETS CONVERSATION

CLARITY EMERGES

Join 30+ experts at The Hindu Huddle as they cut through the clutter and bring clarity to the chaos of today's world through dialogue, while exploring what it means for the future of India.

DAY 2 | June 6, 2026 | Taj West End, Bengaluru

9:55 am to 10:15 am

Welcome Address by
Dr Narayan Lakshman
Opinion Editor, The Hindu, and Curator, The Hindu Huddle

10:20 am to 10:50 am
New Mandate for Change:
A Gen Z aspiration story

Dr K G Arunraj
Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare of Tamil Nadu

In conversation with
Ramya Kannan
Chief of Bureau, Tamil Nadu, The Hindu

10:55 am to 11:40 am
Nurturing Our Pluralist Union:
The role of regional politics in strengthening democracy

Javed Ali Khan
Hon'ble Member of Parliament (SP), Rajya Sabha

Dr Santrupt Misra
Hon'ble Member of Parliament (BJD), Rajya Sabha

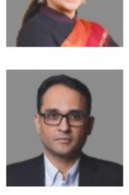
K R Suresh Reddy
Former Speaker of united Andhra Pradesh and Former BRS Parliamentary Party Leader

In conversation with
Nistula Hebbar
Political Editor, The Hindu

11:45 am to 12:30 pm
Glass Ceiling Shattered:
Women leaders shaping Parliament

Aparajita Sarangi
Hon'ble Member of Parliament (BJP), Lok Sabha

Sagarika Ghose
Hon'ble Member of Parliament (TMC), Rajya Sabha



Dr Thamizhachi Thangapandian
Hon'ble Member of Parliament (DMK), Lok Sabha

In conversation with
T M Veeraraghav
Executive Editor, NDTV

12:35 pm to 1:20 pm
By, For, and Of the People:
Good governance for Telangana

A Revanth Reddy
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Telangana

In conversation with
N Ram
Director, The Hindu Group

2:05 pm to 2:50 pm
I, Robot:
How AI is reshaping the future of work

Debjani Ghosh
Former President of NASSCOM and Distinguished Fellow at NITI Aayog

Lakshmi Narayanan
Former CEO, Cognizant and Chancellor, Krea University

B Santhanam
Former CEO - Asia Pacific and India Region & Chairman, Saint-Gobain India

In conversation with
Raghuvir Srinivasan
Editor, The Hindu businessline

3:20 pm to 4:10 pm
India 2036:
The making of a sporting nation

Anjali Bhagwat
Olympian and Former World Number 1 Shooter

Ashwini Nachappa
Olympian and Asian Championship medallist

In conversation with
K C Vijaya Kumar
Sports Editor, The Hindu

4:15 pm to 5:00 pm
From Bhiku Mhatre to Srikant Tiwari:
Three decades of reinvention

Manoj Bajpayee
Actor

In conversation with
Rohit Khilnani
Journalist and Talk Show Host

5:05 pm to 5:50 pm
Memories, Medium, or Message?
Art as mirror to a world in transition

Abhishek Poddar
Art Collector

Seema Kohli
Artist

Shilo S Suleman
Artist

In conversation with
Dr Narayan Lakshman
Opinion Editor, The Hindu, and Curator, The Hindu Huddle

6:05 pm to 7:00 pm
Counterpoint:
A Life in Diplomacy, Poetry and Music

A performance by
Nirupama Rao
Former Foreign Secretary and Former Indian Ambassador to the US

Soundarie David Rodrigo
Pianist

Closing Remarks by
Dr Narayan Lakshman
Opinion Editor, The Hindu, and Curator, The Hindu Huddle

*Schedule subject to change

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A BG-BGE

Karun, Smaran costliest buys at Maharaja Trophy auction

Team India player Rahul goes unsold as expected; Padikkal and Prasidh receive bids worth ₹2.6 lakh each from Mysuru Warriors; Chethan, a sought-after cricketer in the shortest format, will also join Warriors, for ₹11.5 lakh

CRICKET

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Top stars: Karun was acquired by Coastal Kings Mangaluru for ₹18 lakh while Smaran was acquired by Shivamogga Yodhas for ₹15.75 lakh
FILE PHOTOS: K. MURALI KUMAR & VIJAY SONEJI

Karun Nair emerged the biggest buy even as K.L. Rahul went unsold at the 2026 Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 tournament player auction here on Friday.

Karun was bagged by Coastal Kings Mangaluru for ₹18 lakh while R. Smaran, who has scored in excess of 350 runs in each of the last two editions, was acquired by Shivamogga Yodhas for ₹15.75 lakh.

Rahul's non-selection was more or less expected, for he is part of the India squad that is playing Afghanistan at home. He is also likely to be in the party that will tour England for a white-ball series in July.

Fellow India teammates Devdutt Padikkal and Prasidh Krishna received bids worth ₹2.6 lakh each from Mysuru Warriors.

L.R. Chethan, a sought-after cricketer in the shortest format, will also join the Warriors, for ₹11.5 lakh, and he will have for company V. Vyshak (₹8.25 lakh). Elsewhere, Hubli Tigers bought Abhinav Manohar for ₹13.50 lakh and Mayank Agarwal for ₹11.5 lakh.

Gulbarga Mystics snapped up Manish Pandey for ₹12.75 lakh and Macneil Noronha – recently called up by Chennai Super Kings as a replacement player – for ₹12.25 lakh. Kalyani Bengaluru Blasters' costliest buy was all-rounder Shubhang Hegde (₹11 lakh).

The tournament will be held from June 20 to July 12.

Antonelli to race with freedom as Russell ramps up pressure

MONACO GP

Agence France-Presse
MONTE CARLO

Championship-leading teenager Kimi Antonelli intends to race free of worry during this weekend's Monaco GP as he bids for a record fifth consecutive victory.

As his Mercedes teammate and title rival George Russell ramped up the pressure on him by saying that the "title is his to lose", the Italian insisted that he was unfazed and that he will stick to driving to win, without creating any chaos.

"I know I can win (the drivers' title), but I don't want to think about it and to lose my head," Antonelli said. "The season is so long, so I'll continue to drive as if I have nothing to lose – because I can't lose something I haven't achieved yet!"

Antonelli heads into the Monaco weekend with a 43-point lead over Russell, having reeled off an unprecedented four wins, including his maiden F1 triumph.

Asked about Russell, he told Sky Italia that they wanted to treat each other fairly. "We don't want to cause chaos. When we race, we race to win and we want to be the best... For sure, we race for ourselves – but also for the team."

ROUND-UP

Easy for United Aces
United Aces FC blanked BM FC 3-0 in the KSFA 'C' division football league on Friday.
The results: 'C' division: United Aces FC bt BM FC 3-0; FX FC Bangalore bt Vanquisher Sports 2-0; Play Smart FC drew with TFF 1-1; Freelancers FC bt Noel Wilson 2-1; FC Real Bengaluru bt NEY FC 5-1.
'D' division: Zent Intl. bt KGF FC 7-0; Mercurial FC bt Power Play 2-1.

Hindustan Friends Club holds Falcon HC
Falcon Hockey Club drew with Hindustan Friends Club by 4-4 in the KSHA Super Division hockey league here on Friday.
The results: Falcon Hockey Club 4 (Nitin 22, Vivek Ramakrishna 28, Suresh 31, 42) drew with Hindustan Friends Club 4 (Anand 6, 15, 35, Lakshman 49); Bengaluru Blues Hockey Club 4 (Muddhappa 1, Senthil 13, Vinish 33, Bopanna 48) bt Coorg Blues Hockey Club 1 (Salesh 22).

Theerthesh, Unnathi breach 200m marks

ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Theerthesh Shetty and Unnathi Aiyappa broke the State records in men's and women's 200m respectively in the Karnataka senior athletics meet 2026 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Friday.

Bangalore Urban's Unnathi made history in the women's 200m, erasing a long-standing record. Unnathi clocked 23.10s to eclipse Ashwini Nachappa's mark of 23.40s set in 1990. Dakshina Kannada's Theerthesh's 20.70s run went under the previous mark of 20.79s set by Abhin Devadiga last year.

Sinchal wins 400mH

Kodagu's Sinchal Kaveramma, the State record-holder, won the women's 400m hurdle event (58.96s).

The results (winners):
Men: 200m: Theerthesh Shetty (Dakshina Kannada), 20.70s (NMR, OMR: Abhin Devadiga, 20.79s, 2025)
10,000m: Shailesh Kushwaha (Bangalore Urban), 29:56.95s
400m hurdles: Aryan Prajwal Kashyapa (Mysuru), 50.70s
Women: 200m: Unnathi Aiyappa (Bangalore Urban), 23.10s (NMR, OMR: Ashwini Nachappa, 23.40s, 1990).
10,000m: Yuvarani (Raichur), 46:40.70s.
400m hurdles: Sinchal Kaveram T.R. (Kodagu), 58.96s.

Theerthesh.

Unnathi.

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